

A History
of
The First Baptist Church
of Goldsboro, North Carolina





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Lola Dellbridge, Ch.

A History
of
The First Baptist Church
of Goldsboro, North Carolina
Organized in 1843
in Old Waynesborough

Edited by
Charles S. Norwood

Published in 1988

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DEDICATION

- To: Those members of the early church who served their generation well, creating a noble heritage to be preserved by those coming after.
- To: The present generation who has accepted the challenge of preservation and enhancing the church, its property, its respect, and leadership in the community.
- To: The future generation now enrolled in the young people's department, whose task it shall be to continue to build the church stronger, and to make a better world than their parents ever knew.

FOREWORD

History is the recorded events and the people who performed. It preserves for posterity the facts which otherwise would be forever lost. To know history we can better plan the future of ourselves, our children, and our church.

I wish to record the events and stories I have heard and read over the past 80 years I have spent as a member of this church. This is an updated history from 1843, when it was organized in old Waynesborough, to the year 1984.

Charles J. Nelson, our founder, wrote the first history in 1856 when he recorded in our oldest minute book how the church was organized.

In 1894, Rev. John T. Albritton recorded the early life of the church in Waynesborough and how he became a member in 1856 and was baptized in the Neuse River at Waynesborough by Rev. David Coulling. This was before we had a church building of our own and before we were led to build a church and move to Goldsboro in 1858 to our present location, 125 S. John Street.

In 1859, after two years at Wake Forest, Bro. Albritton returned. He was the first to be ordained by our church.

In 1912, J.J. Robinson, brother-in-law of C.J. Nelson, wrote a history for the Biblical Recorder to announce the 5th State Convention to be held in our new brick church just completed. H.B. Parker, outstanding church deacon, moved the church history up to 1930. Mildred Edmondson Greene recorded events through 1943. In 1960, I started a search for our early record books that were scattered in different areas of the church, which is understandable, considering the many additions and renovations we have had over the years. I found many early documents, books, pictures of pastors, and memorials to past faithful workers. I read all of the old minutes. Gathering them together into a metal cabinet for safekeeping, I had also made a scrapbook and many notes of events that took place in my early years which dates back to 1908 when I remember Mrs. Lizzie Grant, who was my first teacher, who sang and played on a very small reed organ, "Jesus Loves Me This I Know For The Bible Tells Me So." The first graders had a building to themselves. Maj. Grant had build a one room addition to the old first church of 1858 for his wife who taught the beginners so they would not be disturbed by the older classes that were all scattered in the sanctuary (no individual classrooms available).

In 1912, as a boy of eight years of age, I watched Mr. W.J. Mathews build the new church. On Saturdays his son, Jerome, would give the neighborhood boys a tour of the buildings from the basement to the roof. I was quite familiar with every room, closet and attic of the building as it progressed.

In 1959 it was my privilege to be Chairman of the committee to change and renovate the sanctuary to its present state. My intimate knowledge of its construction helped qualify me for the job. I had also been active in the church ever since it was built. I was one of the first group of young people to be baptized in the new church, May 1913. I have participated as chairman or committee member on every construction program, change, enlargement and restoration since 1912.

I feel quite at home when I am in the church and I am forever thankful for my part in preserving it for our future generation to continue the history from this date forward.

Biography of CHARLES STEPHENS NORWOOD

Charles Stephens Norwood, retired President of Crawford-Norwood Realtors, was born in 1904 at 306 S. John Street, Goldsboro, N.C., the tenth child of George A. Norwood and Louise Hart, both of Hartsville and Charleston, S.C.

He attended William Street Schools and graduated from high school in 1923. After two years at Wake Forest College, he transferred to the University of North Carolina and received a B.S. degree in Banking & Finance in 1927. His first job was with the National Bank of Goldsboro which closed during the Bank Holiday of 1931. In the same month as the bank closing, he was elected the Secretary-Treasurer of the Citizens Building and Loan Association, a position he held for twenty-five years. He also became associated in 1931 with John R. Crawford, his father-in-law, whose business, John R. Crawford Insurance Company, dates from 1892. Crawford-Norwood Realtors became the new name of the real estate department in 1931.



In 1956 the Savings & Loan became too large to be housed in the same office with Crawford-Norwood Company so it moved out in separate quarters. Norwood became a Vice President and Director and George S. Dewey became the executive officer. Norwood retired from First Federal Savings & Loan after 51 years of service.

Besides Savings & Loan work, he has developed over 20 subdivisions and built over one thousand homes in and around Goldsboro through his real estate firm now headed by his son, Charles S. Norwood, Jr.

He was first married to Mary Crawford who died in 1973. He is now married to Mary Corpening, formerly married to Emmet M. Robinson.

Norwood is a member of the First Baptist Church (since 1912), Kiwanis Club since 1936, Goldsboro Country Club organizer, a past President of the United Way and Drive Chairman (1949), Wayne County Bond Chairman during World War II, and previously served as President of Goldsboro Industries and a Director of the Chamber of Commerce in 1954. He is also President of the Old Waynesborough Commission and a past President of the Wayne County Historical Association. He has served on the Historic District Commission, co-authored a book, HISTORY OF WAYNE COUNTY, is a recipient of the Gertrude Caraway Award for Merit in the field of Historic Preservation in the State of North Carolina.

In 1978, he was a major benefactor in the creation of a local History Room at the new Wayne County Library. He received an award of appreciation for his continuous contributions in 1983.

In 1984 he was honored by the Boy Scouts of America, Torhunta District of the Tuscarora Council, with the Distinguished Citizens Award for support of the youth of America.

In 1987 he was elected as a member of the North Caroliniana Society of the University of North Carolina Library.

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I also wish to thank and acknowledge the many contributions of material and pictures by my friends Lola Delbridge, Catherine Ham, Ruth Kemp, Claude H. Moore, Ethel Twiford, Mary Francis Parker Hopson, Collier Cobb, II, Ruth Jerman Fry Smith, John R. Woodard, and Bernice Cross.

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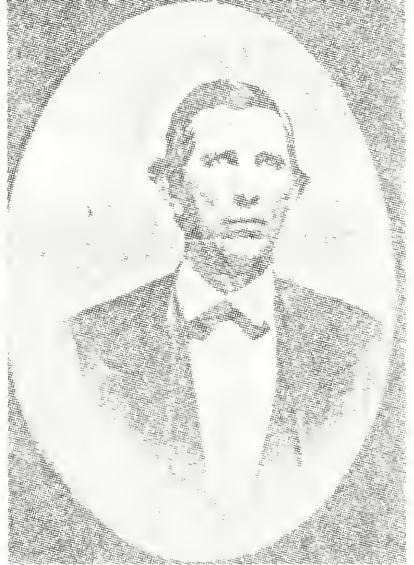
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PART I THE FOUNDING

At the close of the Revolution, Dobbs County was being divided and Wayne County had its beginning, being formed from the western half of Dobbs County in 1779. In 1782, near a boat landing on the Neuse River, a new frame courthouse (16' x 24') was being built on the north banks, near where Little River flows into the Neuse. It was 1787 before this little town of 150 people was incorporated and called Waynesborough, the forerunner of Goldsborough. All of Waynesborough, its people, its homes and its businesses would later move only one mile east and become Goldsborough in 1847.

Charles J. Nelson,¹ a native of New Bern, came to Waynesborough in 1839 to establish a business of making carriages and harnesses. He was a religious man and had the strong support of a good and religious wife. He was a good businessman as well and soon became a leader of the community. He and his wife were distressed to find no church and very little religious interest in the town. He soon managed to get a church building started, to be called the Free Meeting Hall, where all could come and hold meetings. In the year 1840 he organized the first and only Sunday School in Wayne County. He was the superintendent, a position he kept for the next 22 years. It was three years later, in 1843, with the aid of Elder David Thomson from Smithfield, that his Sunday School was reorganized into the First Baptist Church. Robert McNabb and George



Charles J. Nelson

W. Dupree from Wake County assisted. Five members went into the church as its first members – Charles J. Nelson, on letter from New Bern; Thomas C. Garrison and wife, Lizzie, on letter from Petersburg, Virginia; Patsy Powell, wife of John A. Powell, on letter from Smithfield; and Cynthia Ellis. This church of five was constituted by a Presbytery, consisting of the executive branch of the board, known as Union Association, later known as the Eastern Association. Officiating was Bro. Benjamin Olive, George R. French, and Leban Carroll. Thomas C. Garrison was named the first deacon and David Thomson the first pastor.

Preachers were scarce and preaching very irregular, but Waynesborough, being the halfway stop on the stage coach route between New Bern and Raleigh, received more than average visits by Circuit Riders who stopped at the tavern and often made use of the Free Meeting Hall.

¹ See *Biographies of Nelson, Part II*

Rev. David Thomson^{1p} was called and he agreed to be our first pastor, meeting only once a month. He was well known throughout Eastern Carolina. History records his travels and appearances from Wilmington to Weldon and from Raleigh to New Bern. He was a delegate to Kehukee Meeting House in Halifax County in August, 1772. Kahukee Creek Baptists date back to 1742. He represented the Separates as opposed to the regular Baptist who were less strict in receiving members. Rev. Thomson was nearing his last ministry when he became our first pastor. The Biblical Recorder announced his death the following year, September 7, 1844, 90 years of age.



David Thomson

George W. Dupree^{2p} of Wake County followed Rev. Thomson as our second pastor but he served for less than a year.

Our third pastor, William Robinson^{3p}, is well known in the early history of Goldsborough but better recorded as a teacher and publisher of one of the early papers. **The Goldsborough Patriot**, than a preacher. He and his brother John, both came from Dublin, Ireland, arrived in this area just as Waynesborough was giving way to the migration to higher land one mile east. Waynesborough, on the banks of the Neuse, had been described as a very crude and unhealthy place, but the real reason for the move was for future business outlooks. The railroad, having been completed from Weldon to Wilmington, had for several years attracted building on both sides of the rail. The first vote suggested that the county seat be moved to the rail settlement failed in 1845, but on a second vote two years later, 1847, the issue was a decided victory for the move. Many citizens of Waynesborough had already moved and rebuilt on the high land. William Robinson became more interested in the need for a school in the community, so he left the church to establish with his brother John the first school. He and his wife remained active members of our church for many years and a memorial window to Mrs. Robinson in our present church sanctuary was given in 1912 by her son, Dr. M.E. Robinson.

In the minutes of the first session of the Union Baptist Association held at Kenansville, N.C., October 4-7, 1844, we find under the heading of Newly Constituted Churches, "Goldsborough is under the care of Elder Robinson. This church was constituted twelve months ago. We infer from their letter that prospect at present is not as flattering as it has been. Membership total 23 - Association Funds, \$2.00 - Reported by delegates, W. Robinson and T.C. Garrison."

Descendants of William Robinson have been very active in civic and educa-

^{1p} David Thomson, 1st pastor, Part II

^{2p} See Biographies of Pastors, Part II

^{3p} See Biographies of Pastors, Part II

tional affairs in our community, and his influence has stayed with us for a longer period of time than any of the other early pastors of the church.

William Robinson and his second wife, Eliza Davis Robinson, died in 1877 and 1885, respectively, and are buried in Willowdale Cemetery.

Rev. Amos Johnson Battle^{4p} of Edgecombe County was our fourth pastor following William Robinson. Rev. Battle had served many churches in Eastern Carolina before coming to Waynesborough in 1850. He was an evangelist and promoter of Wake Forest and later Chowan Female Institute. He was prominent in helping organize the State Convention in 1830 and later held several offices in the state organization and Biblical Recorder.

It was at this time that the Great Revival of 1849 took place in Waynesborough and Goldsborough, led by two Methodist ministers, Rev. Ira T. Wyche and James H. Brent. Meetings were held in the day at the Free Meeting Hall in Waynesborough and at night in the new school house, or Academy, as it was called, in Goldsborough. The Academy had just been built on the southeast corner of John and Chestnut Streets, where St. Paul Methodist Church stands today. It, like the Free Meeting Hall in Waynesbrough, was to serve all church groups as well as the Baptist, which was the only organized church at that time.

Colonel and Mrs. Charles J. Nelson were among the Christian leaders of the day and rejoiced over the more than one hundred souls that professed faith in Christ during the twenty-one day revival. It was a great union of Baptist and Methodist effort that resulted in an enlarged Baptist Church and the organizing of the First Methodist Church, Rev. Wyche being their first pastor.

So great was the influence of the Revival of 1849 that it led to the organizing of the Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian Church. The Methodist built the first church in Goldsborough on the north side of Spruce Street between Center and John Streets about 1853. They were first to pull out of the Academy Building. At a later date after the Academy Building was moved further down John Street to the northeast corner of John and Elm Street, the Methodist were to return to John and Chestnut Streets and build their present church, completing it in July 1883. The old first church on Spruce Street was sold to the Primitive Baptist. It was abandoned and torn down in 1965. This lot had been a gift to the Methodist in 1853 by Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Holt.

As late as 1858 the old Academy was still the only church building in Goldsborough and served all four of the above named denominations.

The Presbyterians, organized in 1885, were to move out in their new church at the corner of James and Ash Street early in 1856. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, organized in 1853, broke ground for their church on the northeast corner of James and Mulberry Streets in 1856, but it was May 2, 1857, when they held their first service. Lots for the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches were given by Willis Hall, local contractor.

The Baptist, the first to organize, started a drive for funds to build a church in 1852, but due to their failure to maintain a settled pastor, the building did not get underway until 1858. A review of this unsettled period will be given after first returning to the story of the rapid move from Waynesborough to Goldsborough.

^{4p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

As early as 1838 the railroad from Weldon to Wilmington was nearing completion. Building was booming on both sides of the railroad at the junction that was later to be called "Goldsborough" in honor of the civil engineer, Matthew T. Goldsborough from Baltimore, who had spent most of his time during the years the road was being built at this halfway junction. Some of his time was spent as a boarder of the Charles J. Nelson's in Waynesborough and they became fast friends. It was Nelson who promoted the name of Goldsborough so successfully that when the town was incorporated in 1847 it was named for this railroad engineer.



Major Matthew T. Goldsborough

The founding of Goldsborough was a new era in the lives of the people. Everything was to be new, bigger and better than they had known in Waynesborough. The best homes were being torn down and rebuilt while others were being moved intact to the new town. Old log houses on the river were being left behind. Two new hotels would be built on opposite corners at the railroad and Walnut Street before the town was named or incorporated – "The Borden," on the northwest corner, and "The Griswold Hotel" on the southeast corner.

BUILDING THE FIRST CHURCH

Charles J. Nelson had been a success as a buggy and harness maker in Waynesborough. He now chose a new site for his business in the new town on 311 South John Street not far from the Academy. His business continued to grow until it was one of the largest in town. He used a large outdoor bell to call his men to work. Being only a block away from the Academy, his bell was also used to call the people to Sunday worship. He was the chief supporter and promoter of the Baptist Church, but was having a hard time getting a preacher to settle down with the church.

After Rev. Battle, came Rev. Harley Minor^{5p} of New York, and then the Rev. Joshua J. James.^{6p} He was active in the State Convention and Biblical Recorder. The Convention agreed to pay part of his salary, a practice they still do to help young churches get started. We have very little records of our first six pastors as the first records were burned. The Union Association, however, records Rev. H. Minor as attending the Association Annual Session, October 7, 1850, held at Bear

^{5p} Rev. Harley Minor is mentioned in early Minutes of Church, nothing more.

^{6p} See Biographical Sketches, Part II

Marsh, North Carolina. He was named on the Committee of Ordination and was appointed to examine petitionary letters. The next year, October 3-6, 1851, he was appointed to preach the Charity Sermon at Little Creek, Greene County. Minor also attended the 10th Annual Session of the Association held October 1-4, 1852. The Association changed its name to Eastern Association at this session. After 30 years the name would be changed again to the Atlantic Association in 1883.

Dr. Samuel Wait^{7p} had retired as the first president of Wake Forest College in 1846. He served as the college president from 1834, when it was first opened. He was in his late sixties when he accepted the call to the First Church in Goldsborough. The Church was still meeting in the old Academy Building and trying to get a church building program going, but everything was moving very slowly. Dr. Wait was not only a great educator, but was also one of the founders of the State Convention. He was its first general secretary and paved the way for the first publication of the Biblical Recorder. Wake Forest honored this man by naming its Administration Building for its first president. Dr. Wait's ministry ended the first and early period of the church. A fire destroyed all our church records and history from the



Dr. Samuel Wait

organization to the fall of 1856. The earliest minutes that we now have are dated October 4, 1856, when a meeting was called to consider the calling of a pastor, the eighth to be called in the thirteenth year of the church. Charles J. Nelson and Hosea Williams were asked to extend the invitation to the Rev. David Coulling. E. B. Wood was the church clerk signing the minutes.

David Coulling^{8p} of Petersburg, Virginia, was the man the church had been waiting for. He was a leader and a good preacher. The people responded and he was kept busy baptizing new members. Charles Nelson headed a committee to find and secure a lot on which to build a church. Hosea Williams, Thomas Gregory and E. B. Wood were to serve with him. They were considering buying the lot that the Academy was on from William B. Edmundson, but dropped the idea when J. J. Baker, a large property owner, offered to sell a lot on John Street, 75' x 75' for \$400.00 and to give \$100.00 in cash to start the building. This lot is the same that our present Education Building covers in its entirety. The lot was deeded April 17, 1857, to C. J. Nelson, J. J. Baker and E. B. Wood, Trustees. It was known as lot No. 55 of the Plan of Goldsborough. The building committee was named January 18, 1857, and comprised of Charles J. Nelson, Chairman, John T. Albritton, Hosea Williams, E. W. Cox, E. B. Wood, William B. Edmund-

^{7p} See *Samuel Wait Sketches, Part II*

^{8p} See *David Coulling Sketches, Part II*

son, Col. J. J. Baker, and the pastor, David Coulling. Solicitation of funds for the new church continued, Rev. Coulling held a great revival and many were taken into the church.

Bro. John T. Albritton appeared before the church to announce his plans to go to Wake Forest to prepare for the ministry. In 1859, he returned and became the first person to be ordained from this church.

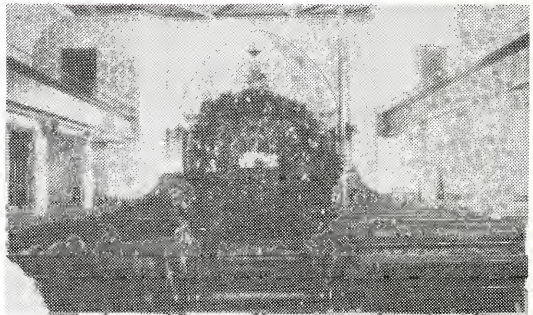
Among those baptized by David Coulling at Waynesborough in the waters of the Neuse were J. J. Baker, October 3, 1857; Virginia Robinson; Margaret A. Robinson; Eliza Davis Robinson, by letter from Union Church in White Hall; and Julia Pipkin, by letter from Murfreesboro. Julia Pipkin later became the wife of P. D. Gold, our pastor in 1863.

On December 11, 1857, Rev. Coulling resigned, and on February 6, 1858, Rev. George Bradford^{9p} accepted a call to the church. This was reported by Bro. Nelson who was also authorized at the same meeting to rent rooms at the Gregory House for six months "as cheap as possible." The church did not have a parsonage and the hotel one block away was the logical answer. Rev. Bradford's salary was to be \$400.00 per year. Rev. Bradford and Bro. Nelson continued the solicitation of funds for building and received aid from Baltimore, Raleigh, Wilmington, Union Association, and far away Chowan Association which Rev. Bradford visited in May, 1858. His visit was recorded in our church minutes of that date.

The church was nearing completion in July, 1858, when the minutes record authorization to Bro. Nelson to negotiate with Bro. Thomas Skinner of Raleigh for a bell to cost no more than \$150.00. That bell is still in use and the only bell the church has owned, and is the oldest bell in use in the city today. Also recorded is a gift of a lightning rod for the church spire.



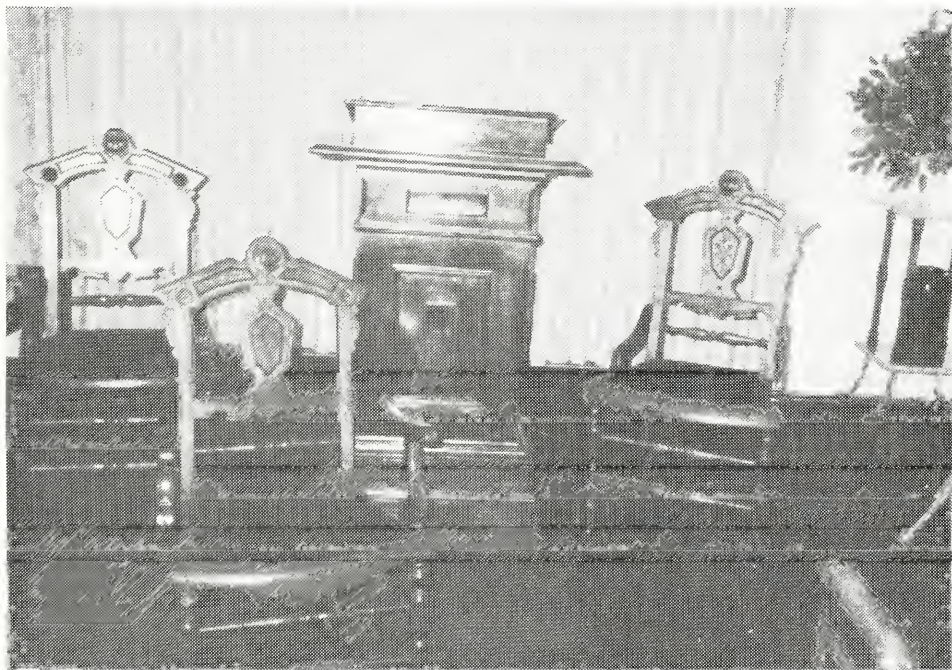
The Baptist State Convention held here – 1860, 1867, 1880 and 1891.



Interior of Old Church decorated for a wedding.

^{9p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

The church that Charles Nelson built was a frame church painted white. It had been discussed a long time and it was hoped that the church would be of brick, but the money did not come in fast enough and Nelson was determined to have a church. It was a 60' x 40' building with a 60 ft. steeple, the only steeple in town until the Methodist built St. Paul's in 1883. St. Paul's steeple was 120 ft. high, one of the tallest in the state until Hurricane Hazel toppled it on October 15, 1954. Our church started at the sidewalk and extended the full depth of the lot. Entrance was from two sets of steps that entered a vestibule and then into the sanctuary which had a red carpet. We had a balcony for our colored members who numbered 24 named in the January, 1859, membership roll. The roll of colored members as well as the white members is found on page 57 of our Minute Book No. 2 of 1858. Members are listed by name, 35 males - 57 females and 24 colored, for a total membership of 106. The balcony had an iron rail that extended around the ledge of the balcony that formed a horseshoe effect, that is, a balcony on two sides and across the back. This same iron rail was used in 1912 in the new church Sunday School balcony, but it was discarded when the church was renovated in 1960. Our early church had a raised platform for our pulpit, and the baptismal pool was under the floor just behind the pulpit, which would be removed and the floor, on two large hinged flaps, would open up for the baptismal service. The pulpit and the three original pulpit chairs have been preserved, refinished, and they are now in use in the Laura Harrell Chapel of the present church. The pews of the original church were used in the new church Sunday School auditorium for many years, or until 1960 when the church renovation incorporated the Sunday School auditorium into the main sanctuary. The Men's Bible Class was the last to use the pews. When their classroom was converted to the Harrell Chapel in 1968, the pews, still good, were given to a Negro church.



The original pulpit and chairs used in the first church.

The church sanctuary was also the Sunday School auditorium and was presided over by Charles J. Nelson, the founder and superintendent. As the enrollment grew, classes of like ages were formed and gathered in groups through the church to hear a lesson taught by their teachers. Children went to the balcony and were divided up, while young people were in many groups in the main sanctuary. It was quite different from present day individual classrooms. You could very easily hear what was going on in the next class across the aisle if you were not concentrating on your own lesson. It was more than 20 years before a special Sunday School room was added on the south side of the church. This room was for the small children and will be described more fully later in this story when we reach the time it was added in 1885.

There are two pictures of our frame church now hanging in our present church office. The date of the pictures has not been determined but about 1900 would be a good guess.

The total cost of the church and lot was \$4,000.00. The lot was \$400.00 and the church \$3,600.00. Upon completion in July, 1858, there was a balance unpaid of \$1,075.00. This debt remained about the same for two years and was finally paid off by Bro. Nelson, J. J. Baker and Willis Pipkin.

It is interesting to note that the church minutes of 1858 discuss the need for a sexton to care for the church and light the candles at night. They hired a woman for \$2.00 per week but in a short time there were complaints on both sides. The people were dissatisfied with the language of the sexton, so she was fired. Bro. Nelson said he would look after the job himself.

The minutes also reveal that members were expelled for "contempt of the church" if they did not attend regularly and if their daily conduct was not becoming a church member.

Rev. Bradford stayed only one year as pastor and was succeeded by Rev. George W. Keese^{10p} in January, 1859. He was a young man from Richmond, Virginia. He had recently graduated from the University of Virginia and had preached only two years before coming to Goldsborough. This was a very eventful period in the life of the new church struggling to get going.

THE WAR DECADE 1860

1860 was the year our church played host to the first meeting of the State Convention in Goldsboro with Rev. Keese the host pastor. Condensed minutes of this meeting were published in the Biblical Recorder of Nov. 13, 1912. A copy is filed in the church office in Minute Book No. 5. On April 12, 1861, 'the shot that was heard around the world' was fired on Fort Sumpter, Charleston, S.C.; the Civil War was begun. Rev. Keese was successful in advancing the work of the Kingdom, not only in Goldsboro, but also in other Associations in eastern Carolina. Suddenly in July, he was stricken with typhoid fever and died within

^{10p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

three days. This was a great shock to the members of the church as well as his associates in the work of building up the Association in eastern Carolina. An account of his death in the Biblical Recorder, July 24, 1861, best tells of the melancholy caused by his death. He was buried in Richmond, Virginia.



First Baptist Church – 1885

The church was without a pastor for the next six months, but in January, 1862, Rev. Needham Bryan Cobb^{11p} accepted the call. He was only twenty-six years of age, but he had graduated from the University of North Carolina at the age of eighteen, had his masters degree at twenty, had taught a year, studied law and practiced in Pitt and Wayne Counties. Before coming to Wayne County, he had left the Episcopal Church in which he had been vestryman. He was baptized in Greenville, North Carolina. In 1860 he was ordained in Wilson by a presbytery that included Elder George W. Keesee, whose pulpit he now accepted to fill. This remarkable man was with us for only a year but his interest and service was far reaching, both in Goldsboro and throughout the State as teacher, editor, historian, preacher and pastor. While in Goldsboro he was president of Wayne Institute and Normal College and professor of Latin and Greek in Goldsboro Female College. In 1889, Judson College conferred upon him a Doctorate of Divinity degree. Dr. Cobb served many churches throughout North Carolina and for three years, 1879-1881, was president of the Baptist State Con-

^{11p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

vention for three terms. In leaving Goldsboro in January, 1863, he went into Lee's Army as a chaplain, where he served until the end of the war. He had also held the position of general secretary or corresponding secretary of the State Convention, 1862-1865, while still serving in the Army. Dr. Cobb is remembered also as a poet, teacher and author. He wrote his own textbook. We are fortunate that our own church library owns a copy of his best known book entitled, **Poetical Geography of North Carolina and Other Poems**. This book was a gift to the church library by a grandson, Collier Cobb of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Other descendants and relatives are still living in Goldsboro.

Elder Keesee, Cobb, Gold and Whitfield were our pastors during the war. It is not hard to read in the church minutes and other church records what a trying time was experienced in the endeavor to hold the church together. Most of the men from ages 21-45 were in the Army. Goldsboro was almost overrun by General Foster's men early in the war, December, 1862. Foster advanced on the town from New Bern by way of White Hall and Everettesville, but was stopped at the Neuse Railroad Bridge and the Covered Bridge.

J.M. Hollowell^{*}, the county historian and active member of the Goldsboro Rifles, told many interesting stories of the times and ordeals of the people of Goldsboro during the war years. He was a prominent member of our church, having served as clerk of the church for 30 years as well as being a Sunday School teacher and trustee. He died in April, 1912, just before the present church was completed. A memorial window in the north vestibule of the church bears his name and dates 1840-1912. His name appears quite often in the history and records of our church.

Elder Pleasant Daniel Gold^{12p} came to Goldsboro in January, 1863, from Cleveland County, North Carolina, to seek and find his bride, Miss Julia Pipkin, a member of our church. Her letter of transfer from Murfeesboro to Goldsboro is recorded in our minutes, December 11, 1857. They were married in January by Rev. N. B. Cobb before he departed for the Army, and before the month was out P. D. Gold assumed the duties of the pastorate vacated by Rev. Cobb. He too was young, only thirty years of age.

Elder Gold had read law but never practiced. After spending almost two years here, he left to serve other churches in Eastern Carolina. He soon left the Missionary Baptist and united with the Primitive Baptist at Kehukee Church in Halifax County. Kehukee, one of the earliest Baptist churches in North Carolina, was in existence about 1743, a hundred years before our church was organized in 1843. Later Elder Gold settled in Wilson, North Carolina and became an editor and published the Primitive Baptist paper, **Zions Landmark**. He has a daughter, Mrs. Ruth Gold Spicer, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Martha Gold Stroud, and other relatives, now deceased.

Bro. Charles J. Nelson, after twenty-two years as superintendent of the Sunday School he had organized in 1840, passed the job to Peter Bogart who served for only one year before his brother, William Bogart, took over as superintendent from 1863-1868.

^{12p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

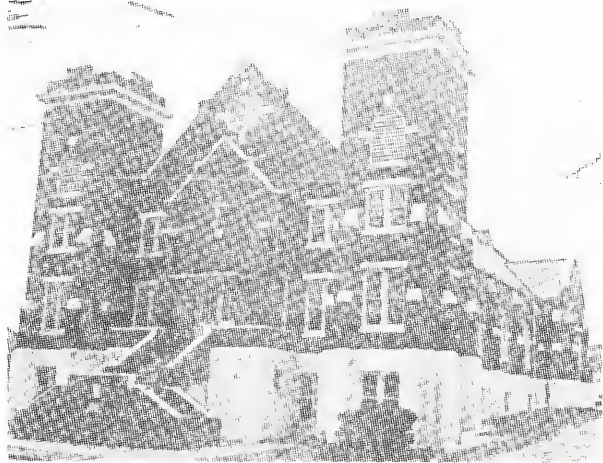
^{*} *Eminent Members, Part II*

Our church was without a parsonage until 1864, when C. J. Nelson bid in two lots adjoining the church on the south side at an estate sale from L. B. and J. A. Evans for the sum of \$7,000.00. These lots were known as No. 53 and No. 54 of the Plan of Goldsboro. The first church was built on lot No. 55. Bro. Nelson offered to sell the property to the church for \$500.00 less than he paid for the two lots. One of the lots had a small residence that could be used as a parsonage. The proposal was accepted, and the deed, from the two Evans to Trustees, C. J. Nelson, William E. Bogart, James H. Privett, Willis Pipkin and Jesse J. Baker, was made July 29, 1864.

The church minutes show that Bro. Nelson gave \$500.00; Bro. Bogart, \$1,000.00; J. J. Baker, \$1,000.00; William Robinson, \$500.00; and J. H. Privett, \$1,000.00. Willis Pipkin, S. H. Denmark, J. J. Bradbury, Hosea Williams, N. B. Cobb and several others completed the needed sum. Several hundred dollars came from Bro. T. E. Skinner in Raleigh. The small Evans residence was used as the parsonage until 1873.

Dr. Theodore Whitfield^{13p} followed Elder Gold to our pulpit in September, 1864, at the age of thirty. His wife was a niece of Gov. John Morehead and was a very able helpmate. She actually canvassed the Federal Camps surrounding Goldsboro for enough money to buy a reed organ for the church. In later years Mrs. Whitfield played an important role of organizing the W. M. U. in our church and the State. Rev. Whitfield left Goldsboro after two years, but returned twenty years later for a second term, 1883-1886.

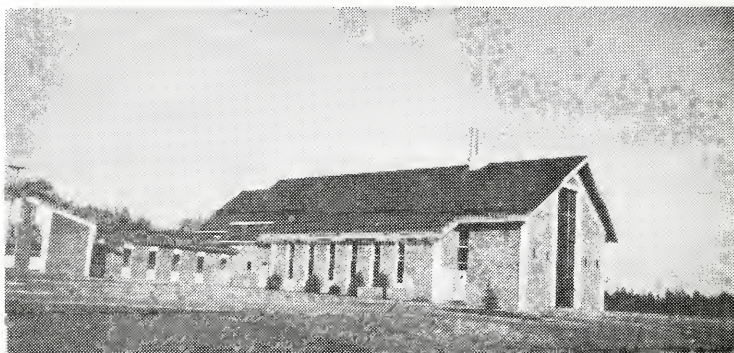
In 1864 the colored members of our congregation expressed a desire to have their own church. With the aid of Mrs. Whitfield, C. J. Nelson and P. D. Gold, the First African Baptist Church was organized. It was the only Negro church in Goldsboro at that time. There have been many other churches since then throughout our county that trace their origin to the First African Baptist Church. Some of these are Barnes Chapel, Folk Township; Hooks Grove, Pikeville; Augusta Chapel, Brogden Township; Best Grove, Stoney Creek; Ebenezer Baptist, LaGrange; Mt. Calvary; Saint Stephens Baptist and Antioch. The first Negro



First African Baptist Church before the 1973 fire which destroyed the building.

^{13p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

State Baptist Convention was organized in Goldsboro at the First African Church in 1867.



First African Baptist's New Building on Harris Street, 1978.

In 1872, C. J. Nelson and wife, Sarah, deeded to Samuel Washington, George Bunting, Calvin Best, Trustees of the First African Baptist Church, a lot 108' x 217', on the Little River Bridge Road (now W. Pine Street), for the consideration of \$500.00. This is the site of the present large brick church that was completed in 1924 on the same lot that had been the church's location since 1864.

Rev. J. B. Hardwicke^{14p} followed Dr. Whitfield as pastor in April, 1866. He came from Petersburg, Virginia. In May, Rev. Hardwicke and Dr. Hooper ordained Bro. Charles J. Nelson into the ministry. Nelson had been most successful as a businessman but was determined to enter the ministry. He sold his business and, without a church, he rode his horse from one community to another preaching the word of God to those who would listen and helping strengthen weak churches throughout Eastern North Carolina. He was the second member to be ordained by our church.

October 16-19, 1867, was the date of the second State Convention to be held in our church. Rev. Hardwicke was the host pastor. Minutes of this meeting can be found in our church Minute Book No. 5. It will be of interest to know that at this meeting a committee was appointed to help the colored brethren organize a Colored Baptist State Convention. Notation was made at the convention that Dr. Samuel Wait had recently died.

Rev. George W. Sanderlin^{15p}, at the age of twenty-five, began his first pastorage in Goldsboro in 1868. He had just graduated from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He had served in the Confederate Army for four years and was commissioned a Captain. He had attended the State Convention that was held in our church the year before and had served as recording secretary. Bro. Sanderlin was the only pastor of our church who acted as superintendent of the Sunday School at the same time as pastor. He held both positions for the full three years he was in Goldsboro. He accepted a call to the Franklin Square Baptist Church in Baltimore in March, 1871. Five years later, due to ill health, he resigned to return to Wayne County to live as a farmer. After he regained his health, he entered upon a political career that carried him to Washington, D.C. He became the fourth auditor of the Treasury of the United States.

^{14p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

^{15p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

GROWING WITH THE TIMES

Elder Columbus Durham^{16p} filled our pulpit for the next five years, from August, 1871 to January, 1876. Like Sanderlin, Goldsboro was his first pastorate. He was only twenty-seven years of age when he assumed the call. He and Sanderlin had been friends and classmates at Wake Forest College. Both had served in the War until its end. Durham was well received in Goldsboro. The membership of the church doubled and the church was freed of any debt.

The parsonage was small so it was decided that it should be enlarged and remodeled. Bro. Nelson was called upon once again as chairman, to do the job. Funds for this program were made available by selling the corner lot (105'x210') (Now Strosnider) to the Methodist Church for \$1,650.00. The Methodist had expressed a desire for a site for their parsonage. On March 23, 1873, our Trustees, C.J. Nelson, A.H. Humphrey, J.H. Privett, William Taylor and J.M. Hollowell, deeded to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, J.C. Slocumb, E.B. Borden, W.F. Kornegay, J.H. Powell and E.W. Adams, lot No. 53 of the Plan of Goldsboro, which is the northwest corner of John and Chestnut Streets. After purchasing the lot the Methodist changed their plans and in 1876 sold the lot to N.R. Grainger, who built the house that is still standing today (1970). The property soon passed to his son, Charlie Grainger, who sold the front portion of the lot to Capt. J.B. Edgerton. Dr. Strosnider inherited the property from his first wife, Miss Nellie Edgerton. The rear portion of the lot was held by Mrs. Charlie Grainger until 1950 when purchased by John R. Crawford, who presented a deed of the property to the church as a gift, thus returning this rear portion of lot No. 53 to the church after a lapse of 77 years.



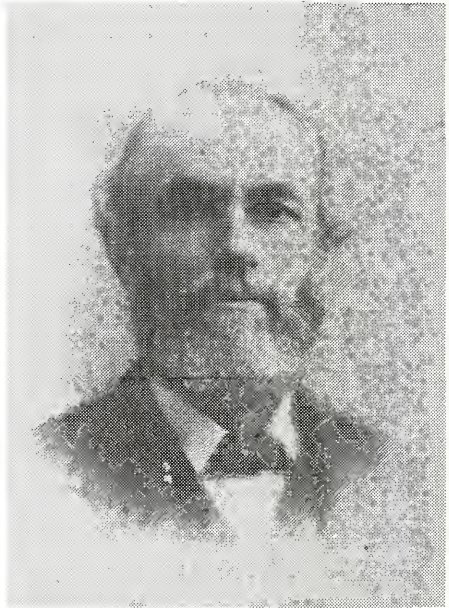
Left side of South John St. at Chestnut ca. 1900. Grainger-Edgerton-Strosnider 1st house, church parsonage and church building. B.G. Thompson house 1st on the right.

^{16p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

Columbus Durham moved on to other churches in the State and South Carolina. He was immensely interested in education and missions. In 1888, eleven years after he left the Goldsboro pulpit, he became the general secretary of the State Convention. He was referred to as the Great Columbus Durham. He was back in Goldsboro when the Convention met here in 1886 and again in 1891. when he held the secretary's position. At that time his salary as secretary was \$1,500.00 plus \$275.00 for travel. At the latter meeting, he gave a thirty page report on the affairs of the State Convention. Columbus Durham died at the age of 51 in 1895, while still secretary of the State Convention.

Capt. J.J. Robinson, a long time member of our church, was superintendent of the Sunday School during most of Rev. Durham's stay. He had been a teacher and a deacon. His sister was C.J. Nelson's second wife. Another very influential couple who had entered our church by letter during Rev. Durham's ministry was Hiram L. Grant and wife, Lizzie. They made a great contribution as teachers and church leaders for the next forty years. Major Grant had been in Goldsboro during the Civil War as a Major in the U.S. Army. So impressed with the town and people, he returned in 1869 to make Goldsboro his home and to become an outstanding businessman and church leader. Major Grant was first in the brick manufacturing business. He had bought all the lots in old Waynesboro from W.R. Lane and this was the location of his plant. Mrs. Grant joined the church in 1869. Major Grant was baptized in 1874. Goldsboro was now a town of over 2,000. Two big historical fires in the business section had occurred and new growth was taking place. Hotel Kenon was being built to replace burned out Griswold Hotel and the Gregory House. Free schools were established and things were on the move.

Rev. Fitz Henry Ivey,^{17p} a native of Fayetteville, was our next pastor, following Elder Durham. He came in February, 1876 and remained to January, 1883. This was the longest stay for any pastor of the church up until this time. Like most of our recent pastors, he had served in the Confederate Army as chaplain. After the War he had served churches in Georgia and after his stay here he returned to Georgia. Goldsboro's population was now over 3,200 and the State Asylum for Negroes was established here in 1880. The following year Goldsboro had its first bond issue for free schools, launched by J.A. Bonitz, Charles B. Aycock, F.A. Daniels, Joseph E. Robinson. Business was good and many new industries were begun. J.E. Peterson was superintendent of our Sunday School. He served the church in many capacities



Rev. Fitz Henry Ivey

^{17p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

for the next forty years. In November, 1880, our church was host to the State Convention for the third time. Rev. Ivey was the host pastor. Dr. Needham Bryan Cobb, our former pastor in 1862, was serving his second term as president of the Convention and presided over the meeting. Foreign Missions was the keynote of the meeting. This being the Semi-Centennial of the State Convention, 1830-1880, it was pointed out that in 1830 there were 15,000 Baptist in the State and now, in 1880, there were 100,000 white and 80,000 colored Baptist. A brief account of this meeting was reprinted in the Biblical Recorder of November 12, 1912. It is also found in our Church Minute Book No. 5.

Goldsboro, in the fall of 1884, suffered a great loss in a big fire destroying businesses on Walnut Street from James to Center Street – both sides of the street – on Center Street south to Weil's and north to Dewey Bros. All buildings in this area were destroyed but in a very short time during the next year, all buildings were rebuilt and business was thriving again.

Charles Brantley Aycock, our Educational Governor, joined our church by letter, August 1, 1880, and his wife, Varina Aycock, by baptism, May, 1888. Curtis Brogden and his sister, Nancy, joined our church in 1891 by letter. Brogden, a Lieutenant Governor, was called to be Governor on the sudden death of Governor T.R. Caldwell in 1874. J.M. Hollowell received a telegram from Raleigh requesting that he get Brogden to Raleigh at once. The only two Governors this county has produced for the State were members of our church. Other outstanding members of this era were as follows: W.G Britt in 1885, Robert E. Coker from Darlington, S.C., by letter, 1898; Willis A. Denmark, baptized, 1881; E.L. Edmondson, baptized, 1889; Mrs. Lois Keaton Edmondson, 1890; R.M. Freeman, 1886, Clerk of Church; W.T. Faircloth, 1888, Chief Justice of N.C. Supreme Court; A.H. Keaton and wife, 1864; and Mrs. S.D. Pettitway, sister of J.J. Robinson.

In March, 1883, Dr. Theodore Whitfield^{18p} returned to our pulpit for a second time. Major Grant became interested in our Sunday School and saw a need for enlargement. His wife was already an established leader and teacher of the young people. In 1885, Major Grant gave enough brick to Mr. Harding, a contractor, to build the bell tower of St. Stephens Church. In exchange, the contractor built for our church its first addition; namely, a separate room approximately 20'x48' added to the church on its south side. This addition was to be used exclusively by Mrs. Grant and her Primary Department which she presided over as teacher and organist. It was twenty-five years later that the writer remembers Mrs. Grant so well playing the organ and leading the singing. The organ was very small, only 3' long and 3' high, and was pumped by foot pedals. I remember attending Sunday School in this classroom in 1910, just a few years before it would be torn down to make room for our new church. A picture of this addition hangs on the wall of our present church office. Major Grant became superintendent of the Sunday Schools and served until 1892. He and Mrs. Grant continued to serve the church in many ways. Their three daughters were listed among the teachers in 1895 and their son, J. Hiram Grant, was ordained a minister and sent out from

^{18p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

our church in 1894. One of our most outstanding stained glass windows in our present sanctuary honors the Grant family which played such a large and long role in the life of our church.

Two other members of our church about this time were also ordained as ministers – John T. Edmondson and Junius W. Millard.

Dr. Whitfield, encouraged by his wife, preached missions to a great extent and invited missionaries to visit our church. In the spring of 1886, only a short time before the Whitfield's left Goldsboro, A Woman's Missionary Society was organized and Mrs. Whitfield became the first president. Mrs. H.L. Grant was named president of the Society the following year, 1887, and Mrs. M.A. Robinson was the third president in 1888. Mrs. Robinson was J.J. Robinson's mother and died Sept., 1894. A tribute to her is found in the W.M.U. minute book No. 2 of that year, page No. 53. Similar Missionary Societies were being organized in churches throughout the state. In 1888 there was an effort to bring all Baptist Church Missionary Societies together under the Southern Baptist Convention, but not until 1891, while the State Baptist Convention was being held in Goldsboro, did the State Societies come together and form the W.M.U. and elect to become an Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention. So many women were interested in this organization that our small church was overflowing. St. Paul's Methodist Church across the street had just been completed in 1883 and they very generously offered their church to the Baptist Women who graciously accepted. It was here that the state WMU was organized at its first convention.*

Thomas Dixon,^{19p} Jr., "The Genius," was called to our pulpit in October, 1886, at the age of twenty-two. Dixon, a Wake Forest College graduate, was not sure what the future held for him. He started out a lawyer, then tried the ministry, public speaking, playwriting and novel writer, motion picture director, real estate developer. He made millions with his picture, "The Birth of a Nation", then lost it all. Thomas Dixon, Sr., his father, was a Baptist preacher from Cleveland County during the 1850's. Thomas Dixon, Jr. was brilliant and a most eloquent and convincing speaker, but our records of his stay in Goldsboro do not record great accomplishments. He resigned May 6, 1887, to go to a Raleigh church, where he stayed less than a year before he moved to New York City.

Officers of our church at this time were J.M. Hollowell, Clerk; J.J. Robinson, Treasurer; J.E. Peterson, J.H. Privett and



Thomas Dixon, Jr.

^{19p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

*Prior to this date only men were invited to the Convention. Another historic date in the life of the church.

Dr. J.D. Roberts, Deacons. Trustees were J.M.Hollowell, C.J. Nelson and J.H. Privett, J.Y.Joyner was superintendent of the Sunday School and J.J. Robinson was his assistant. Teachers were J.E. Peterson, D.T. Moore, J.N. Green, Mrs. J.E. Peterson, Mrs. R.Hardison, Mrs. M.E. Millard, Mrs. S.D. Pettaway, Mrs. Bettie Stanley, Miss Katie Millard, and Major and Mrs. H.L. Grant.

Rev. J.S. Dill^{20p} was our twentieth pastor. He came in March, 1888, and served until December, 1890. Rev. Dill was most interested in missions – local, state, and foreign. He served on the Executive Board of the Atlantic Assoc. He was the Association's delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention. He was head of all missions and reported on foreign and home missions at each annual session. He attended the W.M.U. meetings regularly. In fact, they were usually held in the parsonage and he participated in the program. In May, 1888, Rev. Dill reported being in Richmond, Va., at the Convention and pledged \$5.00 for the Mexican Mission from the Goldsboro Society. His action was approved and money forwarded. Book 2, Page 12 of the Missionary Society Minutes records this action. Dues to the Ladies Missionary Society were five cents per month at this time. Later they were increased to ten cents per month.



Rev. J. S. Dill

OUR FIRST MISSION

In August, 1889, Bro. Nelson proposed that a committee be named to look into the feasibility of starting a mission. In December, 1889, a committee was named to secure a lot in Webbtown and build a chapel. This was to be the first mission and was known as the Second Baptist Church. A deed to the lot was recorded May 7, 1890. Many moved to help organize the new church, among them were Willis A. Denmark and wife, Emma, and daughter, Clyde Denmark (Mrs. J.R. Crawford); Ora Crawford; J.W. Sadler; W.H. Suggs; Mrs. Mary Suggs; R.S. Tudor; D.A. Johnson; J.B. Crawford; and others (See page 53 of Minute Book 5 for full list of members moving, January, 1892).

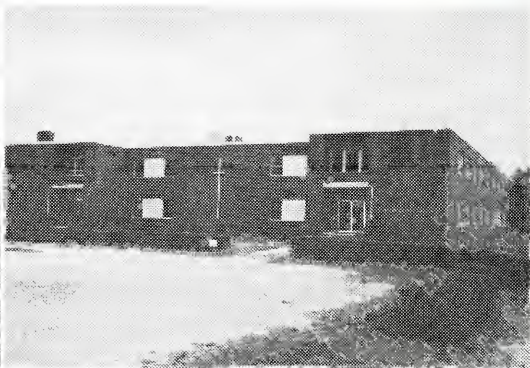
J.B. Crawford donated the lot on which the church was built at 512 S. Slocumb Street. In 1929, the Second Baptist Church asked for and received a deed, subject to its remaining a Baptist Church. This deed was given by Trustees George A. Norwood, Chairman; W.G. Britt; J.R. Crawford; W.E. Stroud; and H.B. Parker. It was to revert to First Baptist Church if it ceased to be a missionary

^{20p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

Baptist Church. In 1959 after another request for a clear title by this Mission, a quitclaim deed was given by the Trustees who were Charles S. Norwood, Chairman; R.M. Purser; and H.V. Modlin; thus closing out and ending a relation of seventy years of the church's first mission. A silver communion set of tankard and cup, used by this mission at the turn of the century, was presented to Mrs. John R. Crawford in 1930, she being a daughter of Willis Denmark, early organizer and leader. She was also a charter member of the Mission.



First Church Mission, 1889 – Second Baptist Church, 512 S. Slocumb Street.



New Building of Second Baptist Church 1965

In March, 1891, the church called Jesse Hartwell Edwards^{21p} to be its pastor. Bro. C.J. Nelson was acting as moderator in the interim. He was still keen, and actively serving on many committees and as a delegate to Association Conferences. He was happy in seeing his church celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary, 1843-1893. The church was organized in 1843 with five members; now there were 348 (122 males – 226 females). During the past year 78 were baptized, 15 received by letter, 50 dismissed by letter, 2 deaths, making a total of 41 added to the membership. In two years, the Church would recognize Bro. Nelson in a big way for his long and faithful service.

At a special called Conference and Presbytery, Bro. Junius W. Millard was ordained by the church, October 18, 1891.

In November, 1891, our church was host to the Baptist State Convention for the fourth time. Rev. Edwards was host pastor and two of our former pastors, Dr. N.B. Cobb and Dr. Columbus Durham, were here as active secretaries of the Convention. It was at this Convention that the W.M.U Societies held their first annual meeting. An account of the Convention is recorded in our Minute Book. The church borrowed that year, \$300.00 to balance the budget. J.M. Hollowell was named church clerk. Over \$300.00 was spent by the Building Committee on repairs. In March, 1892, Bro. John T. Edmondson was granted a license to preach by the Church in Conference. In August, 1892, the church voted unanimously endorsing the decision of Bro. J. Hiram Grant to enter the Christian Ministry. In September, 1892, the church was called into Conference for the purpose of ordaining Bro. John T. Edmondson who had been called by a Baptist Church in

^{21p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

Fort Barnwell, N.C. C.J. Nelson, J.W. Millard and the pastor, J.H. Edwards, composed the Presbytery.

In Nov., 1892, the minutes cited forgiveness of members for being intoxicated and heard a report that church members had been engaged in dancing. Action was postponed until the deacons could talk to the members involved. Later a motion by W. G. Britt was passed requiring all those cited for drinking to come before the church and make their own statement. The minutes record several who did come before the church to ask forgiveness for misconduct and failure to discharge their obligation and duties to the church. Many charges were brought against members during the early nineties and often were investigated. Some charges were dropped. Others were dismissed by recommendation that the church withdraw fellowship and exclude from membership. Numerous cases involved not only drinking and dancing but "selling liquor," "disinterest in the church," "failure to attend," "failure to contribute," "not in accord with views of the church," "contempt of church," "use of profanity," and "conduct unbecoming a Christian."

In May, 1893, a committee was named to look into the feasibility of starting another mission in the northern part of the county at Eureka. Bro. Nelson was chairman and in later years the mission was established and was named Mt. Nelson. In 1893, Emmaus Chapel, 2 miles east of Dudley, was started.



Emmaus Baptist Church, 1985

This is the new church east of Dudley (1803). The old church burned several years ago. The late Eugene Roberts, Sr. was pastor of this church ca. 1975.

In July, 1893, the pastor, J. H. Edwards, resigned to accept a call to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Bros. C. B. Aycock, W. T. Faircloth, J. Y. Joyner were a committee to draw up a resolution expressing the regrets of the church at the pastor's resignation.

In Sept., 1893, Rev. Charles A. Jenkins^{22p} accepted our call and became the 22nd pastor of First Baptist Church. J. M. Hollowell was named clerk and C. J. Rivenbark, Sunday School superintendent.

A warehouse, which was built by M.J. Best and B.G. Thompson and being used for the storage of fertilizer, became so objectionable to the church that a committee of Bros. Aycock, Faircloth and Nelson appealed to the City authorities to prevent its continued use for this purpose. That warehouse still stands and adjoins our Sunday School property on the west. •

Our church letter to the Atlantic Association in 1893 showed a membership of 322, only 126 were males. Eight members had been discharged for one of several reasons, one being "failure to attend or show any interest in the church." The total Church Budget was \$2,551.00. Expenses were \$1,000.00 pastor's salary; and \$1,313.00 missions - state, foreign and home; and \$238.00 miscellaneous church expenses. Over 50 percent of budget was for missions.

At a Church Conference held March 6, 1895, the pastor called Bro. C.J. Nelson to the chair. Then Deacon J.E. Peterson read the resignation of the pastor C.A. Jenkins.

On June 5, 1895, Bro. W. Carey Newton^{23p} was called. He accepted and became our twenty-third pastor. His salary was set at \$750.00 a year. He was only 21 years of age and was still in the Seminary. Therefore he accepted only for a three month term at \$62.50 per month.

In September, 1895, with Bro. C. J. Nelson acting as moderator, a committee reported and recommended that the church call Bro. James Long^{24p} of Unionville, North Carolina at a salary of \$800.00 per year.



Rev. Charles A. Jenkins

^{22p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

^{23p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

^{24p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

•Purchased by the church in 1980 and razed.



Rev. W. Carey Newton



Rev. James Long

WE HONOR OUR FOUNDER

A very special event took place in our church on Sunday, August 11, 1895. It was "Charles J. Nelson Day." This was the Fifty-Fifth Anniversary of the organization of the first Sunday School, which Bro. Nelson organized in 1840 in Waynesborough and which later became the First Baptist Church organized in 1843. Bro. Nelson was the first superintendent, a position he held for 22 years without interruption. A special program was arranged for this celebration and an eight page brochure was published giving the names of early pastors and Sunday School superintendents. Thirteen Sunday School superintendents had served and twenty-two pastors to this date. Five members had been ordained to the ministry. These and many others were recognized and special tribute was made to Mrs. Lizzie Grant for her interest in the infant class.

In May, 1896, Bro. D. J. Rivenbark was named custodian of the church and appointed to provide oil and lamp chimneys for the church and to look after the duties of the sexton. Any complaints regarding the work of the sexton should be made to Bro. Rivenbark.

Brother and sister George A. Norwood were received on letter from Charleston, S.C. October 4, 1896.

In 1897, W. G. Britt was finance chairman and E. L. Edmondson was chairman of Mission Funds. Each made their report each month, giving the names and amount each had paid into the respective fund. Church enrollment was 340, Sunday School 317, with average attendance 174. Church budget was \$3,550.00. The church adopted a Church Covenant and Declaration of Faith published by The

Baptist Publication Society. They ordered 300 copies to distribute to the membership.

Bro. Long resigned December 25, 1898, but agreed to stay on until a new pastor could be found. On January 2, 1899, Bro. Charles J. Nelson died, ending a life of service and devotion to his God, his church and its people. For 58 years Nelson worked at a continuous pace, always leading and shouldering his part of any obligation. He was a dedicated Christian. Again it is said that the history of our Church does not record another man in the life of the church who gave so much for so long a period. Surely he was the Father of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro.

The church called Bro. W. C. Newton of Geneva, New York, at a salary of \$900.00 annually plus the use of the parsonage and study, to begin June 1, 1899.

F. R. Hall was Sunday School superintendent for one year, 1898, and W. J. Mathews served for one year, 1899.

H. B. Parker was received in our church by letter from North Wilkesboro in 1897. He became Sunday School superintendent in 1900. Mr. Parker will appear many times in our church history for the next fifty years. He was Sunday School superintendent for 15 years and very active in all church undertakings.

C. J. Nelson wrote the first history of the church in 1856; J. J. Robinson wrote the second history in 1912; and H. B. Parker wrote the third history in 1930. More will be said about these histories as our story progresses.

At the first Church Conference after Bro. Newton arrived, C. B. Aycock was named trustee to fill the vacancy made by the death of Bro. C. J. Nelson. A Financial Planning Committee was named with W. G. Britt as Chairman and George A. Norwood, Major H. L. Grant and J. M. Hollowell assisting members. A committee was also named to secure bids for putting sewage into the parsonage.

Carter H. Jenkins, son of our pastor, C.A. Jenkins, was ordained to the ministry. Rev. Jenkins' daughter, Stella, married J.J. Robinson. She was his second wife.

On May 2, 1900 (Book 109, Page 192), E. L. Edmondson and wife, deeded to the Trustees of the First Baptist Church, a lot on Bryan Street, 36' x 59', to be used for building a mission. The deed cited that if it was not used as a mission, the property would divert to the Baptist State Convention. This deed was not recorded until 1912. This was the third mission created by our church. It continued to be the property of our church until 1944 when it was deeded by Trustees Charles S. Norwood, H. V. Modlin and R. M. Purser, to the Trustees of Bryan Street Baptist Church. This church is still existing today.

It was also recommended that our church withdraw from the Atlantic Association in order to form and join a new association. Our church was first a members of Union Association, 1843-1853, Eastern Association, 1853-1883, Atlantic Association, 1883-1901, the Neuse Atlantic Association, 1901-1929, the Neuse Association to date, 1985.



Bryant Mission – 3rd Mission to be established by First Baptist.

In 1891, three-fifths of all the Baptist churches in the South were without Sunday Schools.

THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

Rev. W. Cary Newton resigned March 1, 1901. Bro. Newton had served the church for three months in 1895 when he was only 21 years of age and again from October, 1899 to March 1901. He was still only 28. He had a strong desire to go as a missionary to China and soon realized this yearning. In 1912, on the organization of the Philathea Class of Young Women in the church, they adopted as the name of the class, "the Carey Newton Class." While "Philathea" has been dropped, the class name continues today, 1985.

Rev. C.A. Jenkins^{25p}, a former pastor, was called on March 23, 1901, to fill the vacant pulpit. He was preaching in Bristol, Tennessee at the time, but managed to return to Goldsboro by April 7, 1901. His salary was set at \$1,000.00 annually.

Communion services had been held monthly but now it was decided to hold it only quarterly, on the first Sunday in January, April, July and October.

^{25p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

The Neuse Atlantic Association was organized and had its first meeting October, 1901. Delegates elected besides the pastor were J. E. Peterson, George A. Norwood, E. W. Cox, H. B. Parker and E. L. Edmondson.

At a Church Conference held in January 1904, a resolution was passed requiring the roll call of all male members and a note made of those that were absent. If a member was absent for three consecutive meetings, he was required to appear before the next Conference and explain his absence.

Church finances were becoming more of a problem and the Finance Committee was asked and authorized to go over the membership list and apportion the subscriptions and make such changes as would enable the church to meet its obligations more promptly. Letters of dismissal were to be declined unless each member met his obligation, unless there were circumstances that justified his failure to meet it. In the 1913 Directory there is printed the Financial Regulations of the church in which it states "each member is responsible for his just proportion of the expenses of the church. Any member unable to contribute is excused, but any member able and neglecting to do so and found guilty shall be excluded from the fellowship of the church for covetousness."

Bro. Jenkins resigned in 1903 and Rev. W.F. Fry^{26p} accepted our call. Bro. Fry came from Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1904, under direction of Rev. W.F. Fry, there was organized a band of young women who called themselves "The Earnest Workers." Their minute book is still preserved in the church safe. Their objective was to raise money for a church organ. they met monthly and paid dues. They listed thirty men of the church who pledged to give \$5.00 each.

In September, 1904, the church minutes acknowledge the gift to the church of a silver communion set by Mrs. A.S. Turner. This is not the first set, which is dated 1859, nor the one we use today (1970). The present one was a gift of the children of Mrs. Lizzie (H.L.) Grant given in her memory in 1912.

Bro. J. D. Whitley and H. B. Parker were added to the Board of Deacons in March, 1905.

Bro. Fry baptized and received into the church 13 children from the Orphan Home, I.O.O.F.

WELCOME SERVICE
AT THE
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,
Sunday Evening, Oct. 11, 1903,
at 7.30 o'clock
—The Public Cordially Invited!—

PROGRAMME.

Devotional Exercises - Rev. J. E. Thompson.
On part of First Baptist Church - J. E. Peterson.
On part of Methodist Church - Rev. M. Bradshaw.
On part of Presbyterian Church - Hon. W. C. Munroe.
On part of City - Mayor George E. Hood.
On part of Sunday School, First Baptist Church - F. R. Hall.
On part of Second Baptist Church - Rev. J. B. Jackson.
Response by Pastor - Rev. W. F. Fry.
Benediction.

^{26p} See Biographies of Pastors, Part II

A committee of three, H. B. Parker, George A. Norwood and H. L. Grant was named to raise money to pay "J. R. Crawford insurance bill, John Slaughter roofing bill and cost of fixing the church fence."

Rev. Fry notified the church that he had decided to accept a call to Abilene, Texas.

E. L. Edmondson became Sunday School superintendent, a position he held for the next five years.

Our church called Dr. Livingston Johnson, but Dr. Johnson declined the call. Then days later, a call was extended to George T. Watkins^{27p} of Roxboro, North Carolina at a salary of \$1,200.00 per year, parsonage and moving expenses. Rev. Watkins accepted April 8, 1908, and began the longest ministry the church has experienced to that date, 14 years. Many changes were to take place during Rev. Watkins stay. Hosting another State Convention, building a new church and a greatly increased membership of the church were the main changes.

Until 1914 it was the custom that the finance chairman for the pastor's salary report quarterly his collections. The names and amount each member contributed was spread upon the minutes. There was also a chairman of the Mission Funds and a committee to raise money to pay expenses of the church, including the sexton. Now all funds were to be combined into one account. Church letter shows membership stood at 413 - 163 males, 250 females. J. M. Hollowell was clerk; E. L. Edmondson, Sunday School superintendent; B. F. Carr, secretary; Mrs. R. E. Pipkin, W.M.S. president; Sunbeams, Mrs. Petway. The church budget was \$3,000.00.

In 1912, Goldsboro now had a population of over 6,000 and was building its first hospital building. A new Court House was built in 1914.

"The first Royal Ambassador Chapter organized in North Carolina was organized by Mrs. W. M. Petway, a member of our church, according to Evan W. Norwood who was a members of the first Chapter. It was organized in 1908. Mrs. Petway came home hurriedly from the State Convention after receiving the inspiration and organized the first group, then returned to the Convention in time to report her accomplishment before the meeting was over." This is the way Catherine Mathews Ham records the event in her secretary's book. She also has a picture of Mrs. W. M. Petway as well as many other pictures of early church leaders. E. W. Norwood was a missionary to China, 1925-1936.



Rev. George T. Watkins

^{27p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

W.E. Stroud was elected church clerk, June, 1909, following J.M. Hollowell who had served for 30 years. In Conference, October, 1909, the church agreed that Best & Thompson might use 8 inches of church property for foundation of their warehouse in order that the warehouse wall would be on the line.

A NEW CHURCH IS BUILT

On January 16, 1910, a motion was made by Bro. J. E. Peterson that a fund be started to erect a new brick church building. Six thousand six hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$6,675.00) was pledged at the first meeting. Additional trustees elected were as follows: George A. Norwood, L. N. Grant, F. B. Edmondson, F. T. Banks and E. L. Edmondson. H. B. Parker was elected secretary and J. E. Peterson was elected treasurer of the Building Fund.

For more than a year a strong and determined drive for funds to build a church was made. H. B. Parker, secretary, made a strong appeal to the town and received a very favorable response from leading citizens of all faiths. A record is still kept of those non-church members and their contribution. On February 1, 1911, the committee felt like proceeding with plans.

It was decided to use the site of the parsonage on John Street, just south of the church. J. N. McMichael of Charlotte, a Baptist, was chosen as the architect. W. J. Mathews, a church member, was chosen as the contractor. Mr. Mathews, a



W. J. Mathews
Contractor



J. N. McMichael
Architect

native of Buncombe County, had been the first student to enroll at State College when it opened in 1889. He was received in our church membership in 1897. He married Miss Irene Peterson, daughter of J. E. Peterson, long time deacon of the church. Mr. Mathews was credited with owning the first automobile in Goldsboro about 1905. He lived to be 97 years of age and attended church regularly to within two months of his death in August, 1967.



Front, side and back of church under construction, 1912.





WHERE THE CONVENTION IS TO HOLD ITS EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION
The Elegant and Commodious House of Worship of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro.
December 3-6, 1912.

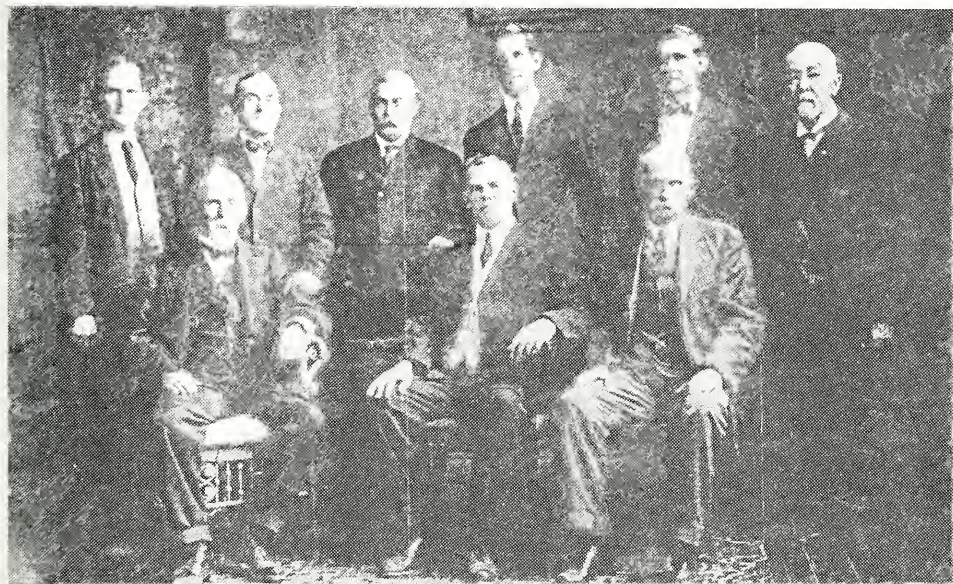
H. L. Grant offered to buy the old church property for \$8,500 and allow the church to continue to use it until the new church was completed. This proposal was accepted.

In October, 1912, the Building Committee was running out of funds and found it necessary to borrow eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) to complete the work. A loan was secured from the City of Goldsboro for this amount.

Our church had invited the State Convention to meet with us that year so all were excited over whether the church would be completed by the set date of December 3-6, 1912. Only by a concerted effort on the part of all members the church was completed, except for the basement area, (now the Social Room), just one week before the Convention dates. Judge D. H. Bland was appointed to make the address of welcome. Committee chairmen named at the October, 1912 conference for the Convention were as follows: J. E. Peterson, Hospitality; G. A. Norwood, Reception; H. B. Parker, Information; W. J. Mathews, Heating and Lighting; F. B. Edmondson, Post Office; L. N. Grant, General Utility.

J. J. Robinson, past superintendent of Sunday School, was forty-one years a teacher and a deacon. He wrote a history of the church that was published in the papers throughout the State. Copies of the **Charlotte Observer** and the **Biblical Recorder** that carried stories of the church and the coming convention are still in our files. Pictures of the new church were also spread on front pages of the **Recorder**.

It was several years after that H. B. Parker, who was a driving force during the building of the church, gave us in his history the best account of the events, before and during the building of the church. He also gave more details than are found in the church records. He told about a Sunday, February 9, 1911, when Mr. N. B. Broughton of Raleigh preached such a strong appeal that \$15,000 was pledged on that very day.



PASTOR AND DEACONS OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GOLDSBORO, 1912

Seated (left to right): J.E. Peterson, Chariman Board of Deacons and Treasurer Building Committee; G.T. Watkins, pastor since April 1, 1908; W.G. Britt.

Standing (left to right): John D. Whitley; E.L. Edmundson, Chairman Building Committee; R.E. Pipkin; H.L. Graham; H.B. Parker, Superintendent of Sunday School and Secretary of Building Committee; D.J. Rivenbark.

Construction was started in July, 1911, with Pastor George T. Watkins laying the first brick. It was a struggle to meet the weekly payroll for more than one year, the building being completed in late November, 1912. The final cost of the building was approximately \$43,000, exclusive of lot which was already owned and paid for. Seven thousand dollars was still owed on the loan from the City. In December, 1919, the last of the loan was paid and Major Grant presided over a mortgage burning held in the sanctuary of the church. The Central Building Committee was J. E. Peterson, Treasurer; H. B. Parker, Secretary; and E. L. Edmondson, Chairman.

After the State Convention, the first baptismal Service was held in the new church on May 11, 1913. There was quite a large group to be baptized as services had been interrupted due to the move to the new church. Jerome Mathews, son of W. J. Mathews, the church builder, was honored by being the first one of the group baptized in the new church. The writer of these notes and his brother, Hart Norwood, were among the number. Also included were Mary Crawford and her sister, Berta Crawford, Edward L. Edmondson, Jr., Sudie Creech and others.

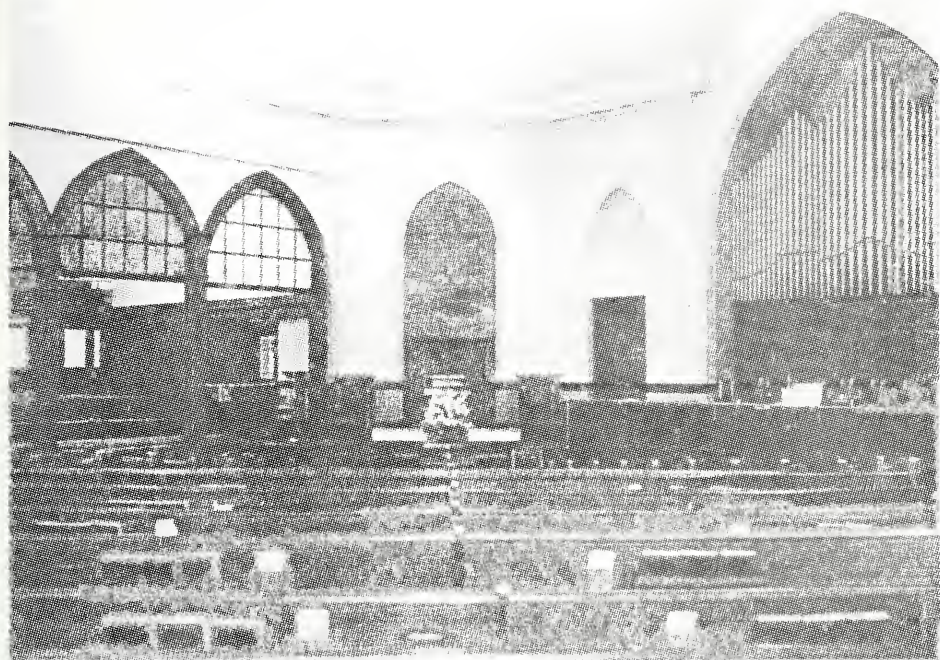
As in most church building, something had to be left undone, since money ran out. It was five years later that the present social room was completed. It was called "the basement," but on completion it was a Sunday School department for juniors. Small classrooms were partitioned off on all sides, with curtains, a large assembly room was in the center. This department continued in this location until 1936 when the present Education Building was purchased. Both the writer and his wife taught and were Junior Department superintendents in this location prior to 1936.

The new church, with the old original church bell in place, was beautiful inside and out. The interior of the church was decorated by a New York artist, by the name of Paul Olsen. He painted an elaborate ceiling decoration and gold lettered bible verses over a door leading to the pulpit. He painted the canvas of **Jesus in Gethsemane**, which was first on the wall behind the pulpit, and now adorns our north wall. Olsen's contract for this work was \$460.00. Many changes were made in the interior when the sanctuary was renovated in 1960, but we will talk about that later. Now we must return to the church of 1912.



Jesus in Gethsemane
by Paul Olsen

The many memorial gifts that were given and contributed so much to the beauty of the church should be described at this point. The large central stained glass window in the south wall of **Jesus the Good Shepard** was a gift by J.E. Peterson in memory of his son, W. Henry Peterson. To the right, **John the Baptist Baptizing Jesus** is the Grant memorial by Major and Mrs. Hiram L. Grant. To the left, **Jesus and Mary Magdalene** - this window was given as a memorial to Mrs. William Robinson, nee Eliza Davis, by her son, Dr. M.E. Robinson. The three stained glass windows on the east wall (the rear) are memorials to Mrs. Bertha Carr, E.L. Edmondson Family, and the Keaton Family. A.H. Keaton was a deacon in 1870 under Rev. Sanderlin and Rev. Ivey. He was the father of Mrs. Lois Keaton Edmondson and Mrs. Cora Keaton Fonville (Mrs. Eugene W.) and Mrs. Anne Keaton Fonville (Mrs.



Sanctuary Before the Renovation

L.O.), all long time members of the church. Mr. Keaton was a merchant of old Waynesborough. In the north vestibule there are four memorial windows. The first window is a memorial to Sallie Hall Pipkin, wife of R.E. Pipkin, who was a deacon in 1912. She was the mother of Annie Pipkin Yelverton. The second window is a memorial to Susan D. Pettiway, who was a sister of J.J. Robinson. She was born in 1839 and was baptized in our church in 1869 by George W. Sanderlin. She was a teacher in our Sunday School for many years. The third window is a memorial to J.M. Hollowell, who for 30 years was our church clerk, Sunday School teacher, trustee, deacon and town historian. He wrote many articles of the early days in Goldsboro, particularly during the Civil War. A number of his articles were put in booklet form and published in 1938. Many quotes from his history are used in this account. He served in the State Legislature and was a city alderman. He was born in Everettesville in 1840 and died in 1912 just two months before our church was completed, J.H. Manley, his nephew, Mrs. J.C. Pate, and Mrs. Julia Jackson, his nieces, are present members of our church. The fourth window is a memorial to Dr. M.L. Hooper. On the walls of the south vestibule we have the Williams memorial. This is the first stained glass window on the left of the entrance. The second stained glass window is a memorial to Annie D. Smith, who was the wife of W.M. Smith, a long

time deacon of the church. She was born in 1855 and died in 1908. The Philathea and Barraca Classes, led by D.L. Cuthrell, T.A. Henley, J.D. Whitley and Miss Carrie Dorrity, were both organized in 1909. These classes gave the next two windows. These were the names of classes of young women and men of the church and the names were adopted and used on a State-wide level. D.L. Cuthrell was a State officer of Barraca, as well as our Sunday School superintendent (1915-1922). He came to Goldsboro from Enfield, North Carolina in 1903 and served our church in many offices. He is now close to 90 years of age. In 1916 the State Annual Barraca Convention was held in our church and there was an elaborate picture made of the group on the Court House Square. Before our church sanctuary was renovated in 1960, there was a stained glass window in the north wall of the sanctuary as a memorial to our founder, Charles J. Nelson. This window was removed but the nameplate was moved to the Barraca window in the south vestibule.



Mrs. William Robinson

W. Henry Peterson

Grant Memorial

Beautiful stain glass windows on south wall of sanctuary.

At the time the church was completed in December, 1912, a new communion set was presented to the church in memory of Mrs. Lizzie (H. L.) Grant by her children. This set is still in use but has been added to as the church had grown in members. A marble flower stand was given by Mayor John Higgins in memory of his parents, Dr. H. B. Higgins and wife, Ann. This table is still in use in the Laura Harrell Chapel.

O. L. Ipock was elected church clerk in 1915. Capt. D. H. Graves, our church treasurer, died in July, 1917. He had been our treasurer since 1911.



1st Philathea Class – Mrs. E.L. Edmondson, teacher; Carrie Dorrity, organizer.



1st Baraca Class – George Watkins, teacher; D.L. Cuthrell, organizer.





Annual State Convention of Baraca - Philathea Goldsboro, April 1916.



Mrs. Lora Suggs Class

Seated, left to right: Ella Smith, Sudie Creech, Mrs. W.C. Suggs, teacher, Julia Mae Roberts, Bertha Crawford. Standing, Mary Poplin, Mary Grace Edwards, Elizabeth Edwards, Helene Griffin, Annie Grady, Ethel Waters, Mildred Smith.

The State Convention of November, 1919, inaugurated the \$75 Million Campaign. Our church went after new members in a great visitation drive, with a determination to pay off local church debts before entering our State \$75 Million Program.

Rev. Watkins resigned October 9, 1912, just as we employed our first pastor's aid, Miss Martha Sizemore. Bro. George Norwood, chairman of the Building Committee, was asked to get the exterior woodwork of the church painted.

In 1922 our church received as a memorial gift, a very fine bulletin board from the W.V. Williams family. This board is still in use. This is the only outdoor bulletin board we have ever had and it has served for almost 60 years. A son, Emmett Williams, is a member of our church today.

Dr. Zeno Wall^{28p} of Clinton, Mississippi was called to be our 28th pastor. He accepted and came on June 8, 1922. Miss Sizemore started her work the same month. Dr. Wall was a great preacher and had a most successful year in 1922 - 140 new members, 72 by baptism and 68 by letter. Our budget was over \$16,000. We had a total of 928 members. Goldsboro was now a city of over 12,000 people.

^{28p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

In July, 1923, Dr. Wall conducted a Revival on North John Street in the Currin Warehouse. This was well received and was considered a great success. Our only revival held outside our church.

Martha Sizemore, after two years service, resigned to go elsewhere. The detailed report of her stay in Goldsboro was spread upon the church minutes as a testimony of what one person can do. Rev. Barney M. Thames was her replacement. He came from Clinton, Mississippi.

In April, 1925, the church purchased a new parsonage, the house of Robert D. Parrott at 404 E. Walnut St. Money was borrowed from the Goldsboro Building and Loan and a bank. A deed was recorded for the lot,, 71.5' x 225' from R. D. Parrott to G. A. Norwood, W. G. Britt and H. B. Parker, Trustees for the First Baptist Church, in Book 177, Page 80 of the Wayne County Registry, April 5, 1925. This was to be the parsonage for the next 38 years, until our present parsonage at 1903 E. Walnut Street was built in 1963. The lot on which the new parsonage stands was purchased from the Presbyterian Church for \$8,000.



Dr. Zeno Wall



404 E. Walnut Street – Parsonage 1925

Dr. Wall resigned as of October 1, 1925. S. F. Teague was elected Sunday School superintendent and M. A. Shaver, clerk. Judge D. H. Bland rendered a fitting resolution in expressing the church's regret in losing Dr. Zeno Wall after four years of real progress in our church. He stated that more than 450 had been added to our membership during Dr. Wall's ministry of 3 years and 5 months. (Page 289 of Book No. 8, Church Records contains the full text of Judge Bland's resolution).

Rev. C. V. Brooks^{29p} of Second Baptist Church in Goldsboro became interim pastor, November 1, 1925.

On March 26, 1926, the church voted to call Rev. A. J. Smith^{30p} of Franklin, North Carolina. He accepted and began his ministry May 2, 1926. At the first evening service, preachers of the other churches in the city were present to welcome Bro. Smith to Goldsboro. Among those present were Rev. J. D. Daniels of St. Paul Methodist Church, Rev. Peter McIntyre of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Omer of the Christian Church, R. E. Hough of Kennedy Home, Rev. Williams of Second Baptist Church and Rev. Parks of Free Will Baptist Church. Mayor Zeno Hollowell represented the city. All spoke words of welcome. This was a repeat Welcome Service for Rev. Smith of one that was held October 11, 1903 for Dr. Fry.



Rev. Alfred J. Smith

Until this date the church had no written by-laws, or constitution, but on page 315 of the Church Record Book No. 8 is found a one page "Proposed Plan of Work" which was adopted and became the by-laws for many years to follow. It was twenty-five years later in 1951 that a By-Laws Committee was named, composed of D. N. Alexander, Roy Sasser and Charles S. Norwood. They proposed two ideas of government - one a single board and the other of two governing boards. The Board of Deacons would plan and execute the spiritual activities of the Church. The Budget Finance Board would plan and execute the financial needs, and care for the physical plant and properties. The two board government was adopted after the Committee reported that they had studied plans throughout the State and found more churches using the dual system. As the church grew, it was means of employing more members into the affairs of the church. Of course, there was a provision for a quarterly joint meeting of the two boards for joint action on matters that required church approval. This was called the "Advisory Council," similar to the one A. J. Smith introduced in 1926 which was composed of department representation.

^{29p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

^{30p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

These By-Laws have stood intact for the most part although there was a revision in 1963 and in 1968. There was a very determined effort in 1968 to do away with the Advisory Council, but after amendments were made to alleviate a duplication of meetings, the by-laws stood intact in principle.

For the next ten to twelve years our Record Book No. 8 not only contained deacon meetings and conference minutes, but recorded a week by week account of church activity. Mr. M. A. Shaver, clerk, started this running history on October 1, 1925, and continued it for eight years. Then Mr. Guion Lee, who followed Shaver, continued reporting in the same manner. The record shows that Mrs. J. H. Manley organized and opened the first nursery in the church in 1926. Annie Mildred Kelly (Mrs. William Ginn) was perhaps the first financial secretary employed by the church. She was employed in 1928 and served for only one year. Miss Ethel Liles came to our church as secretary in 1935 and stayed until 1940.

S.F. Teague resigned as Sunday School superintendent after three and a half years and R.V. Pate was elected to this position. W.G. Britt, Finance Committee chairman, resigned after twenty-five years service and H.L. Graham was named his replacement.

In September, 1928, the church conducted a city wide religious census under the direction of L.L. Morgan, who had moved to Goldsboro. He was a State Convention Sunday School employee. The Sunday School enrollment now exceeded one thousand and classes were held in every corner of the church. Even the old parsonage was converted into classrooms. It had been pulled to the rear of the lot when the new church was built. The Grant Building, which was built in 1914 by Major Grant on the old church lot, had changed hands and was not doing so well financially. In fact, the great "Stock Market Bust" of 1929 was being felt by all. The church was glad to find empty space in the building for its overflow and the "Professional Building" was glad to have the church as one of its tenants.

W.G. Britt died October 16, 1929. This great loss to the church was expressed in a resolution spread in the minutes on Page 350 of Record Book No. 8. Mrs. A.V. Washburn began her service as church financial secretary on January 1, 1931. She and her husband, A.V. Washburn, who soon served as Sunday School superintendent, following R.V. Pate, devoted the next twenty years of their lives in continuous service.

In October, 1929, the Great Stock Market Bust took its toll in Goldsboro. Business was bad. People could not pay their debts or church pledges. Church salaries were cut almost in half. It was a difficult time, but by adjusting our spending to our reduced income we managed to continue our ministry.

Not until 1930 and 1931 did the depression cause our local banks to close. Then in 1932, President Roosevelt called for the Bank Holiday that closed all the banks in the country. It was a sad time and a time we would all like to forget. Only those who lived through it can appreciate the good times we have enjoyed ever since. As business recovered, so did our church activity and the City started

growing again. Our church conducted a city wide religious census that revealed 1975 possibilities for Baptist church membership. We had 1100 enrolled in Sunday School under M.A. Shaver, superintendent, but only 900 average attendance. We had classroom facilities for 800. D.L. Cuthrell was chairman of the Board of Deacons and Wm. Lewis Bullock was minister of music, H.V. Modlin served one year as Sunday School superintendent just prior to M.A. Shaver's election in 1937. Other church leaders during the depression years were L.R. Thomas and Roy J. Parker. By 1940, the City had a population of 17,250.

In 1932 we were in the depths of the depression. The Church found it necessary to cut many expenses. Rev. Smith's salary had been \$4,000 per year for six years but he cut it to \$2,760. Our over-all budget was down to \$14,250. Our budget dropped to \$10,400 the next year. It had been \$20,585 in 1925. The church membership was 1143; Sunday School enrollment was 973. Goldsboro was now a city of 15,000 people.

During the depths of the depression, a large number of the school children came to school without sufficient food. A.J. Smith was concerned and decided he would feed them, single handed, with soup. For weeks he gathered vegetables, meat, and bones at the supermarket at very little cost. He was a good cook and enjoyed cooking. Our church kitchen was soon tabbed the "Soup Kitchen" and the entire church took on the aroma of vegetable soup as he turned it out by the tens of gallons. Many ladies of the church lent a hand in preparing the food.

Mrs. Fred Harrell became active in the church by leading and directing "Pageants" in the Sunday School and in WMU. She was later named president of WMU and served for several years. Guion Lee was elected church clerk. Mr. H.V. Modlin was chairman of the Finance Committee. Others serving with him were George Waters, Jesse Hinson, H.B. Parker, B.F. Carr, G.A. Norwood, John R. Crawford, H.L. Graham and Charles S. Norwood. S.F. Teague was elected Sunday School superintendent for a new term. At his request for more Sunday School space, a committee was named to investigate the possibility of securing additional property. Charles S. Norwood was first appointed as a member of the Finance Committee in 1935-39. He was elected Trustee in 1938 (June 12) to replace G.A. Norwood, his father, who had served as Trustee from 1910 to 1938. Charles S. Norwood was elected deacon in 1937.

Our church adopted the unified budget system, (being the first church in N.C. to do so), and started setting aside each week in reserve according to the ratio each item in the budget had to the total budget. Rev. Smith proposed a plan of tithing as the best approach to meeting the budget. G.A. Norwood was named a director of Goldsboro Hospital, our church being entitled to name one member of this board. Mr. Norwood had been chairman of the Hospital Building Committee when the hospital was being built in 1912, the same time our church was being built.

The first Sunday School Enlargement Campaign was held in 1926, with E.L. Middleton of the State Board, and W.A. Harrell from Nashville, Tenn., in charge. Our Sunday school was the first in the State to departmentalize.

On May 3, 1936, Rev. A.J. Smith completed his tenth year as pastor. The church, with Mrs. John R. Crawford presiding, responded with speakers from every department of the church.

On October 28, 1936, the church in conference heard a report from a committee that had been appointed to study the church membership roll. This committee recommended that 150 members be dropped and erased from the roll due to absence and loss of address. The roll in Record Book No. 8 shows this date stamped beside the 150 names dropped.

Our Greenleaf Mission was started in 1934. Mrs. J.L. Kelly was in charge of this mission. It was located on Frank Street and was a frame church acquired from the Morman church. Deeds were not recorded until 1943, when the property was deeded to Charles S. Norwood, R.M. Purser and M.V. Modlin, Trustees for First Baptist Church. This mission lasted until 1960, when it was deeded to the Victory Baptist Church. They sold the property and started a new organization the same year.

Our record book of events stated that on Mothers Day, May 7, 1937, Dr. Annie Dove Denmark, then president of Anderson College, S.C., spoke to the church as guest speaker at the morning hour. Dr. Denmark, after twenty-five years as president of Anderson College, retired and returned to Goldsboro to live in 1953. She had made a great contribution to the church in leadership, serving as president of WMU, speaker on special occasions, including the dedication of the new renovated sanctuary, and leader of a weekly morning prayer group which she had led for a number of years.

EXPANSION OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE A.J. SMITH EDUCATION BUILDING

Due to the increasing attendance at Sunday School, a committee was named to consider building additional buildings on the rear of the church lot. Plans were proposed and the Sunday School Board was contacted and asked for aid in developing the plans, but these plans were dropped when a new proposal was made in March, 1938.

At a special meeting called on March 7, 1938, Pastor A.J. Smith and Charles S. Norwood presented a plan to purchase the Professional Building and convert it into a Education Building. After a lengthy discussion, Charles Norwood was authorized to go to Richmond, Va. to make an offer to the Life Insurance Company of Virginia for the purchase of the building, which they now owned due to a recent foreclosure. Ten days later, at another called meeting, Norwood reported he had purchased the building for the church for \$31,000 – \$5,000 cash payment and the balance of \$26,000 to be paid at the rate of \$185.00 per month, with interest at the rate of 5 percent. Details of the transaction may be read in Record Book No. 8, Page 453 & 454, telling of full approval by the church in conference. In July, 1938, a deed to the property was recorded from Life Insurance Co. of

Virginia to Charles S. Norwood, H.V. Modlin and R.M. Purser, Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro. As the building was approximately fifty per cent vacant at the time, the church immediately made use of this space. Crawford-Norwood Company was named agent to continue to rent the other half of the building to existing tenants. With this arrangement of joint use, the rent provided the means for the church to meet monthly payments. This continued until the building was paid for in 1945. The original \$5,000 was the only money the church put into the venture until it was remodeled in 1945, and again in a major renovation in 1965.

In 1945, partitions were removed to make assembly rooms on each floor. The entrance foyer was decorated and new lighting fixtures were installed. Improvements made over the next five years totaled \$35,000.00.

In 1965, the building received extensive renovation. The exterior front was changed. The entire building was replastered. The first floor was rearranged and rebuilt inside, creating our conference room which was named for Ben Burroughs and D.N. Alexander, who played important parts in our financial program. This renovation program cost \$95,000.00, more than three times the cost of the building in 1938. When the building was built by Major Grant in 1914 it had cost \$65,000 plus \$8,500 for the land.



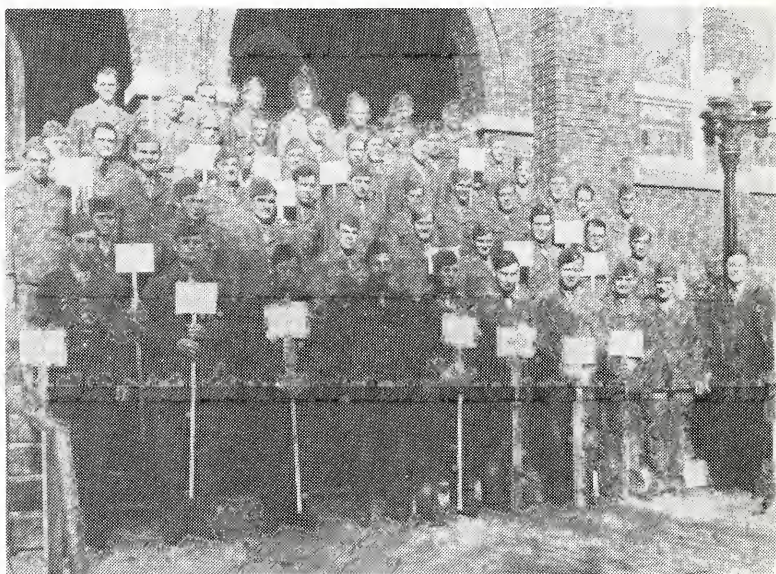
Picture of Education Building after last restoration in 1965.

After the first renovation, the building was known as "The Educational Building of the First Baptist Church." Soon after Mr. Smith died in 1950, movement and plans were made to change the name to "The A.J. Smith Education Building." A committee was named to have Mr. Pridgen of Troy, N.C. paint a portrait of Mr. Smith, which hangs in the foyer of the building. On Sunday, January 1, 1955, a dedication service was held.

Rev. Wm. Cary Newton, former pastor of our church in 1895 and again in 1900 and since then missionary to China for 37 years, returned to our church again to preach on November 11, 1938. He also visited us in 1928. Dr. Newton received his D.D. from Wake Forest in 1925. He lived to be 90 years of age. He died in Richmond, Virginia in 1965.

War clouds brought planes and airmen to our newly created Seymour Johnson Air Field in 1942. More than 250,000 men were trained here during World War II. The air field started as a Municipal Airport and was named for a local flyer who had just lost his life testing a new plane for the Navy. The field was taken over by the Air Force, but the name of Seymour Johnson was retained.

Airmen were seen everywhere on the streets of Goldsboro, especially on Sunday. Rev. Smith had an idea and put it into practice – inviting the men to our church for Sunday morning breakfast. He was the cook and was assisted by Roy Parker. The airmen soon found their way to our church kitchen by the hundreds. Many of them stayed on for church services. Mrs. Ham's scrapbook shows a picture of a large group of airmen who became regular attendants. Besides the breakfast, Mr. Smith was kept busy counseling and working with the military on many levels.



Soldiers encamped at Seymour Johnson Field during WW II (1943-45). Our church served them snack suppers on Sunday.

Mrs. Hattie Farrior Criser, a devoted and long time member of our church, died and named our church as the beneficiary of her entire estate. The estate, valued at approximately \$10,000.00, was divided, part to local use, and part to Foreign and State Missions. Mr. Smith, who was administrator of the estate used his allotted fee to purchase a set of chimes as a memorial to Mrs. Criser. These chimes, which were installed in 1943, were rebuilt in 1968 after 25 years of use and are still in use.

Mr. H.B. Parker wrote a history of our church from its organization in 1843. It was the most complete account up to that date. It included Bro. Charles Nelson's first history of 1856 and contained most of J.J. Robinson's history of 1912. Bro. Parker's history was published in the **Goldsboro News-Argus** in 1930. This is the only record of Mr. Parker's history in print that I have been able to find. In 1943, Mildred Edmondson Greene, daughter of E.L. Edmondson and Lois Keaton Edmondson, wrote a history in our Church bulletin of December 26, 1943. As the preceding historians have done, I also have incorporated events from their writings into this history. However, I have not relied entirely on their record but have checked many sources and found sufficient material to enlarge on the story of years gone by of the life of our church from the early church minutes.

In 1946, Charles S. Norwood was named chairman of the Board of Deacons. A ten year celebration of the founding of the Greenleaf Mission was held and new interest in the mission was shown by the purchase of additional land and a renovation of the chapel on Frank Street in North Goldsboro.

Rev. Eugene Olive, pastor of Wake Forest Church, led us in a week's revival service. A campaign for a church kindergarten was led by Mrs. John L. Henderson, Mrs. S.H. Hocutt and Mrs. Frank Seymour. It was one of the first church kindergartens in the City. Mrs. Loren Pate was the first director.



O.C. Liles was a man of many services to the community. In addition to running the Community Building, he was treasurer for the curb market housed in the building. On Sunday morning he would use some of the curb market money to make change for children attending Sunday School at First Baptist Church. In this 1947 picture he is shown making change for Mrs. Robert L. Denmark, Jr., and her children, Della and Judy.

Miss Mildred Crowder, who had been employed a year earlier as music director and young people's worker, was now presenting outstanding musical programs. Mrs. W.F. Mintz was the organist. She replaced Mrs. J.C. Pate who had served many years as organist (1912-1946). J.C. Pate, her husband, served as Sunday School secretary for twenty years.

A drive for world relief resulted in our church mailing a check for \$1,720.00 to the Southern Baptist Convention to apply on their goal of \$4,000.00. Our church at the same time was trying to raise \$6,000 for the renovation of our social room and kitchen. This was completed a few years later.

W. Carroll Bryan was elected chairman of our Board of Deacons in 1947. M.A. Shaver was Sunday School superintendent. Attendance was 500, or more, each Sunday and growing. Our budget was \$42,358.

In 1947 our church collected for world relief, 1415 lbs. or fifty boxes, of clothing, requiring two trucks to deliver it.

A great and successful Sunday School enlargement campaign was held under Mr. L.L. Morgan's direction. Using eight other out of state workers, a city wide census was the main event. Three hundred and thirty local workers from all church denominations joined in the effort.

In 1947 was the year of the Goldsboro Centennial. For a full week the entire City was in a celebrating mood. It started on Sunday, with all churches joining in. Our pastor, Rev. A.J. Smith, played a very important role from the first Rededication Service on Sunday to the street parade on the last day. A pageant, telling the story of Goldsboro, was shown each night with hundreds of local citizens taking part. The **News-Argus** Centennial Edition was a masterpiece, carrying pictures and histories that are referred to today. Histories of all the churches in the county and events affecting the city's growth are related there. It was the source of many accounts in this narrative.

Christmas week, Henry Brown and Dan Trueblood, both members of our church and both radio experts, installed amplifiers on Hotel Goldsboro balcony and ran wires through the block to our church, where each afternoon at five o'clock in the evening, our choir, under leadership of Lewis Bullock, met and sang Christmas Carols. Late shoppers for blocks in four directions could hear the live music. Following Lewis Bullock, Earle Stapleton directed our choir for one year. Andy Griffith, of T.V. fame, and his wife, Barbara, were both in our choir the year they taught in our High School. They both had good voices and often sang solos. Andy directed the choir the last six months he was in Goldsboro.

Mrs. Andrew J. Smith was our church treasurer that year and B.G. Stowe was budget secretary. Mrs. A.V. Washburn was financial secretary and church clerk. Mrs. A.J. Smith was president of the WMU.

The Paul Edmondson Men's Bible Class financed the painting of our sanctuary. Dr. Broadus Jones of Raleigh was our guest preacher for a week long revival in May.

Miss Gloria Mayer, a graduate of Meredith College, accepted our call to be director of the young peoples activities. Dr. L.D. Johnson led a series of classes and lectures for young people about this time. The Johnson Homes Mission was started with Mr. P.D. Buck as its first leader.

In 1949, Mr. Smith ended his 23rd year as our pastor. B.G. Stowe was elected chairman of the Board of Deacons. M.A. Shaver was Sunday School superintendent and Mrs. Charles S. Norwood was president of WMU.

In January, 1949, the church received as a memorial to George A. Norwood and Louise Hart Norwood, from their children, two silver candelabra to be used in our communion services.

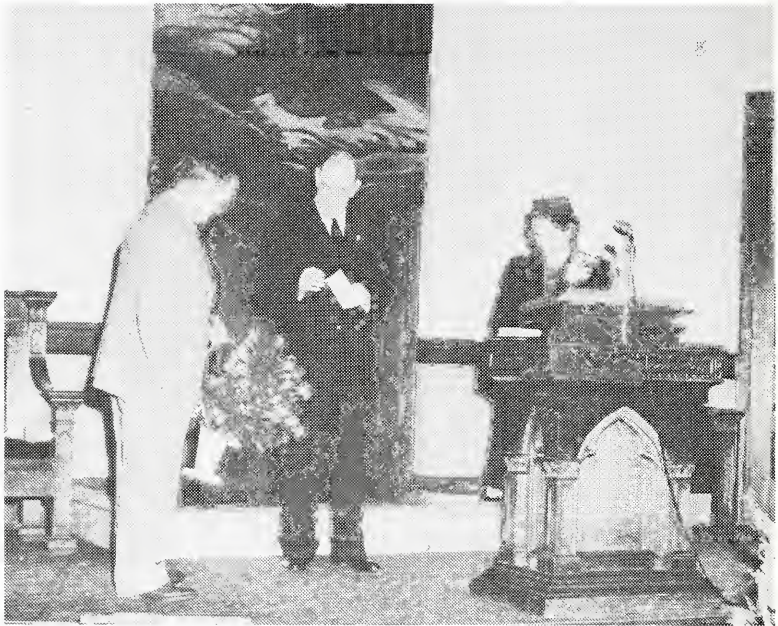
Our church opened, for the first time, a church library on June 1, 1949. In our new Sunday School building a place was provided on the ground floor to the left of the main entrance. In the first few months it boasted an inventory of 1,000 books. During the last renovation of the Education Building (1965) the library was moved to the second floor to give more room for the new Church office.



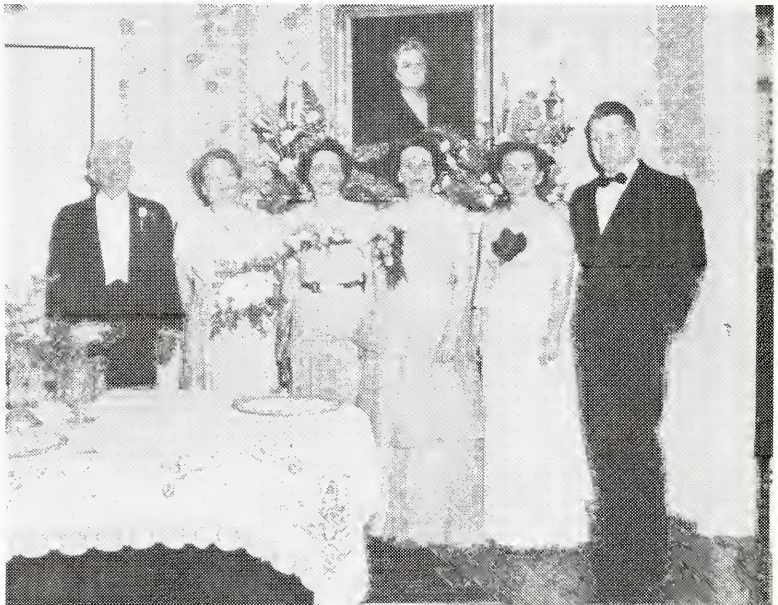
Now the library is located next to our conference room in our expanded office complex - 1979.

On May 1, Mr. Smith's twenty-third anniversary as pastor of our church was a time of counting our blessings and our accomplishments. Mr. Shaver reported for the Sunday School - 9 departments, 36 classes and an enrollment of 1155. Miss Gloria Mayer reported 125 youths in Training Union. Mrs. Norwood reported, for the WMU, a membership of 260, 11 circles and the year's gifts of

\$6,186.00 for missions. Our church membership was 1005. Our church property was valued at \$370,000. Our annual budget was \$34,544. Music was under the direction of Mrs. W.F. Mintz, nee Elizabeth Smith, daughter of our pastor.



Rev. A.J. Smith's Twenty-third Anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church



Mr. and Mrs. John Robert Crawford's Golden Wedding Anniversary, March 8, 1949

Mrs. Fred Harrell gave an inspiring account of Mr. Smith's 23 years of ministry. It is recorded in our Church Bulletin of May 1, 1949. Other tributes to Mr. Smith and more details of his life are found in **Biographical Sketches of Pastors of First Baptist Church** in Part II.

In 1950, D.N. Alexander was elected chairman of the Board of Deacons, and J.B. Burroughs, vice chairman.

A city wide revival was held in March at the Goldsboro High School auditorium with Dr. G. Ray Jordan of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, as the guest minister. Shortly afterwards Mr. Smith became ill and was out of the pulpit for two months. During this period we had many guest speakers including deacons W. Powell Bland, John L. Henderson and M.A. Shaver. These and others held evening worship. Some of the guest preachers were Dr. Frederick Jones, Dr. Zeno Wall, Dr. W.C. Reed, Dr. L.D. Johnson of Danville, Va., Dr. Clyde Turner, Dr. Carlyle Campbell, Rev. James W. Ray, Dr. B.W. Spillmon and Dr. Broadus Jones.

On May 7, 1950 Mr. Smith returned to his pulpit for his 24th anniversary. He was granted another leave of absence so he could go to his Swansboro home to regain his strength. On May 21 he returned to Goldsboro to preach his last sermon and celebrate his 61st birthday. The next day he entered the hospital for an operation which he did not survive. He died early in the morning, May 28, 1950. Newspaper accounts of Mr. Smith's death and a personal letter to friends from Mrs. Smith can be read in the Church Scrapbook of church mementos. On Monday Mr. Smith's body lay in state before his pulpit. At three in the afternoon his funeral was conducted by Dr. Eugene Olive of Wake Forest Church, Rev. James McChesney of the First Presbyterian Church of Goldsboro and Rev. Dean Bergan of the Neuse Association. The inspiring service included congregation singing and scripture reading. At the conclusion of the service the family and friends marched out of the church singing as they departed. Many businesses closed their doors and the Superior Court adjourned in respect to the deceased. Goldsboro and the church had lost their leader, friend and pastor.

Rev. Jack Bracey had been employed early in May to preach for Mr. Smith during the summer months. He arrived one week after Mr. Smith's death to fill the pulpit as supply pastor until September. Our Pulpit Committee was named and they began the task of finding a new minister.

Mrs. A.V. Washburn resigned after 16 years of service as church clerk and financial secretary. A.V. Washburn, her husband, served our church for many years as deacon and Sunday School superintendent. A wonderful tribute to Mr. & Mrs. Washburn, written by Mrs. Fred Harrell, is found in our Church Bulletin, September 24, 1950.



Mrs. A. V. Washburn



Baptist Hospitality welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Jack Bracey into the First Baptist church at a reception in their honor Friday at the church. Rev. Bracey is the church supply pastor for the summer months. Shown in the picture are (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. David Bland as they greet the receiving line. Shown also are George M. Johnson, Rev. and Mrs. Bracey, M.A. Shaver and John Henderson. (News-Argus staff photo).

After many visits to churches in and out of North Carolina, the pulpit committee announced that they had found their man in Reverend Gilmer H. Cross,^{31p} a native of Lexington, N.C. Rev. Cross was a Wake Forest graduate and was preaching in Oak Hill, West Virginia. He was enthusiastically called and began his ministry January 1, 1951.

In January, 1951, Mr. Burroughs and 60 members of the church, together with all the deacons, met in the social room for lunch after morning worship. Then they went out to call on the membership and raised the budget in that one afternoon except for a few follow-ups the next Sunday.

The parsonage at 404 W. Walnut Street received a complete redecoration and other improvements at a cost of \$4,000, all in anticipation of the new preacher and his family, which consisted of his wife, Bernice, and one daughter, Elizabeth Ann.

Mr. Frank Seymour, Trustee, reported two gifts to the church, Mr. George W. Waters, Sr. had left \$1,000 to the church for painting the sanctuary. Mr. John R. Crawford had given a deed to a lot on Chestnut Street at the rear of Dr. Strosnider's property with the hope that the lot could be used for a building, dedicated to children's activities (kindergarten, first grade, child care, etc.).

Jack Bracey left in September and Dr. Frederick Jones of Kinston became supply pastor as of November 1, 1950.

Wednesday, December 6, 1950, was declared a memorial Day for Reverend A.J. Smith. Each hour on the hour, from nine to six, the church bell tolled. Immediately thereafter a fifteen minute period of worship was begun in the church in which one of Mr. Smith's recorded devotionals was played. The church membership and the public were invited to pay tribute to the inimitable spirit of A.J. Smith through these services.



Gilmer H. Cross

^{31p} See Biographies of Pastors, Part II

The Greenleaf Mission asked for separation from our church in order that they might assume full responsibilities of a church. Their wish was granted and a deed was given with a provision that the property would revert to the First Baptist Church if it ceased to be used as a Baptist Church.

Gloria Mayer resigned and Miss Katherine Grayson became the new Religious Education leader. Miss Dorothy Swan became the new financial secretary.

Mr. Cross joined in plans for betterment and enlargement which were already in the minds and spirit of the members.

A Building and Expansion Committee started a study that considered many possibilities. First to be considered was a new Sunday School building which would cover all our lot at the rear of the church and extend out to Chestnut Street. It was argued that the Professional Building should be sold and the money applied on the above proposed new building. There were those who seriously objected to spending any more money on the Professional Building. While the debate went on, it was reported that our church building, now forty years old, needed a new slate roof. Money was borrowed from the Bank of Wayne at 4.5 percent and the new roof went on at a cost of \$15,000.

In 1952, Mrs. W.E. Thornton was named church clerk and Mrs. Ruby D. Griffin, church treasurer, D.N. Alexander was serving his second year as chairman of the Board of Deacons. Miss Mildred R. Baker became Minister of Music. Miss Sallie Settle (Mrs. Henry Modlin, Jr.) was employed as church secretary and Mrs. A.A. Loftin was employed as financial secretary.

Due to a disagreement in the membership over which move to make on the matter of expansion, a new idea was developed. It was suggested that we sponsor a new church in the eastern part of Goldsboro and postpone any further improvement to our present plant.

In the meantime, our By-Laws Committee was ready to report. After two readings at two meetings, the By-Laws were adopted with a few amendments on April 29, 1953.

Organization for a new church moved ahead with the donation of a lot on Madison Avenue. The lot was one block square bordered by Pine Street, Best Street, Laurel Street, and Madison Avenue. This building site was given to Madison Avenue Church in memory of John R. Crawford and wife, Clyde Denmark Crawford, by Mary C. Norwood and husband, Charles S. Norwood; Virginia C. Henderson and husband, John L. Henderson; and John R. Crawford, Jr. and his wife, Annie Laurie Crawford. The new church was further sponsored by the mother church by monthly subsidies of \$100.00 for four years.

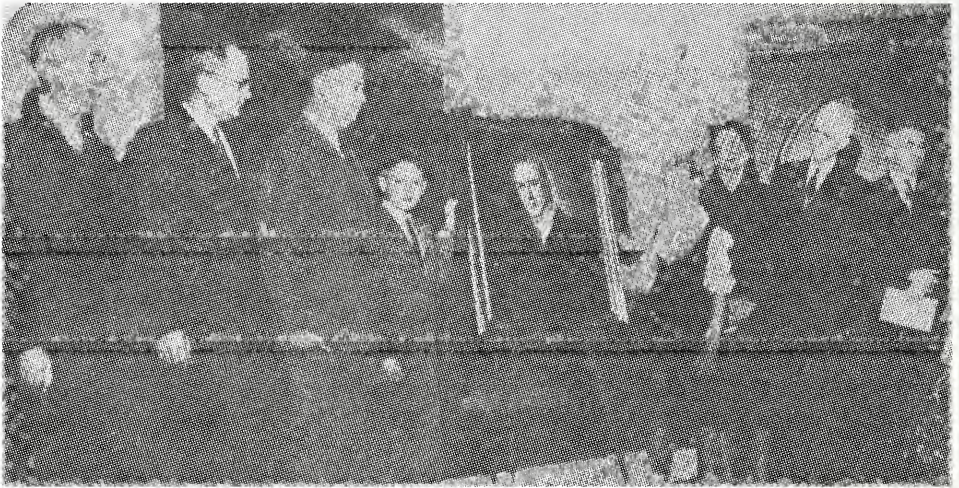
The new church was off to a good start. Two hundred sixteen members indicated their desire to move to the new church. The organization meeting was set for October 18, 1953, at which time the name **Madison Avenue Baptist Church** was adopted. W. Powell Bland, Chairman of the new church committee, reported at each of the many meetings held before final organization was

completed. A Pulpit Committee was named and early in 1954, Mr. Roy Beals accepted the call to be the first pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church.

Our church, reconciled that all decisions on the new church were good and to the best interest of all, settled down to improve the main plant. A program was proposed to repair and improve the organ by installing a new console. Word was outlined for full utilization of the Education Building. By resolution, presented by the Building & Grounds Committee, it was resolved that the building be called the **Alfred J. Smith Education Building**, a fitting memorial to the man who conceived the idea and brought about the purchase of the building. Additional funds would be needed to make the building more usable. \$65,000 was needed and spent in 1954-55.

Miss Baker resigned and soon Miss Lovie C. Cashwell was employed as youth director and Miss Ellen Springle was named Minister of Music and organist. W. Stryon Harris, Jr. was licensed to preach. A copy of the statement of this as given July, 1954, is found on Page 48 of Record Book No. 10.

The Church By-Laws were again reviewed, amended and adopted on August 1, 1954. They are spread upon the Church Minutes in Book 10 at Page 49-53.



DEDICATION SERVICE

A program of dedications was conducted for the Alfred J. Smith Educational Building, at which time a portrait of Rev. Mr. Smith was presented. Shown above with the portrait are: Dr. Carlyle Campbell, Rev. Gilmer H. Cross, G. Frank Seymour, George William Walker, Elizabeth Ann Mintz, Mrs. L. L. Edgerton, Dr. M. A. Huggins and Dr. L. L. Carpenter.

The dedication of the renovated Alfred J. Smith Education Building was held January 16, 1955. A portrait of Mr. Smith was presented to the church at the morning service. Dr. M.A. Huggins, Dr. L.L. Carpenter and Dr. Carlyle Campbell were guests. Dr. Campbell delivered the principal address. Mrs. L.L. Edgerton, president of W.M.U., presented the portrait and Elizabeth Ann Mintz and George Walker, grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. Smith, did the unveiling. Frank

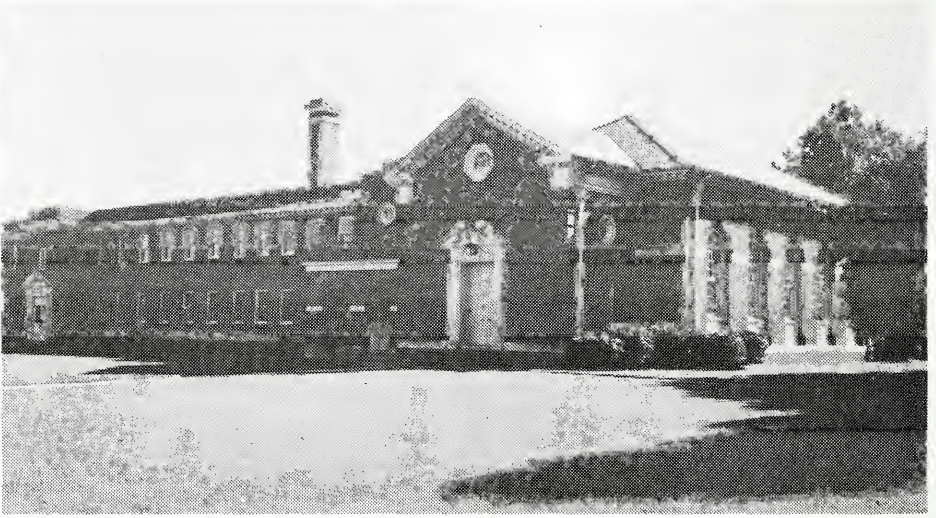
Seymour, chairman of the Board of Deacons, accepted it for the church. In the afternoon, hundreds of people inspected the building and were pleased with what they saw. The newspaper carried pictures and accounts of the event that were very flattering. An editorial by Mr. Henry Belk eulogizing A.J. Smith was outstanding. Copies of all these news items are preserved in the Library Scrap-books.



Clyde Crawford Parlor – 1955

Mr. John R. Crawford, life deacon and trustee, died in 1953 and left \$10,000 to the church, stating in his will that the money should be spent for a fitting memorial to Clyde D. Crawford, his wife, who died in 1951. Mrs. Crawford had been president of W.M.U. for ten years (1928-1938) and a Sunday School teacher for many more years. A class was named for Mrs. Crawford during her teaching years and is still the **Clyde Crawford Class**. The W.M.U. had made a request for a church parlor. Now it seemed possible, since the church had made the old beginners department room available for this purpose. In addition to the bequest, the children of Mrs. Crawford furnished the parlor with furniture, pictures, and books, some of which were in the Crawford home. A lovely portrait of Mrs. Crawford was placed over the fireplace mantel. There was sufficient funds left, so, as a memorial to Mr. Crawford, an arcade was erected connecting the church with the Smith Education Building. The parlor was dedicated in a special service October 23, 1955. Mr. Crawford had served as trustee, life deacon, finance committee and benefactor for 60 years.

For the first year of its existence, Madison Avenue Church met in the auditorium of the Walnut Street School. In August, 1955, sufficient funds had been gathered to start construction of unit No. 1, which would serve as their sanctuary and Sunday School building and would be known as the Crawford Memorial Educational Building. Not until March 1957, was the building completed and dedicated.



First building to be built and called the Crawford Building. Enlarged later, now the Crawford Education Building – 1955.



Madison Avenue Baptist Church – 1972

In November, 1955, Miss Cashwell resigned as education director. Mrs. Fred Harrell, long active in many branches of our church, was employed to fill the position. George Bain, secretary of the advisory council, made a motion at our fall conference that a Sanctuary Study Committee be appointed. For several years suggestions had been made that we should renovate our sanctuary, enlarge and beautify it. Mr. D.N. Alexander was named chairman of this committee. After several months study, this committee came up with three plans, ranging in cost from \$50,000 to \$135,000. More will be related about this project. It finally got under way in 1958.

By July, 1956, Brookside Chapel was self-supporting and wished to branch out and build a church. Mr. Cross was highly in favor of this move and suggested that our church set aside each month \$200.00 to accumulate as a building fund for Brookside Chapel. A lot was donated and the building fund increased, but a church building was not started. Many problems developed and the mission lost ground, until eventually, in 1968, it was closed down completely. At that time there was approximately \$21,000 accumulated in the Building Fund.

Robert E. Bryan was chairman of the By-Laws Committee in 1957. He presented amendments to the existing by-laws that were approved and adopted. The new by-laws were spread upon the Minutes of Record Book No. 10, April 24, 1957, Pages 88-91.

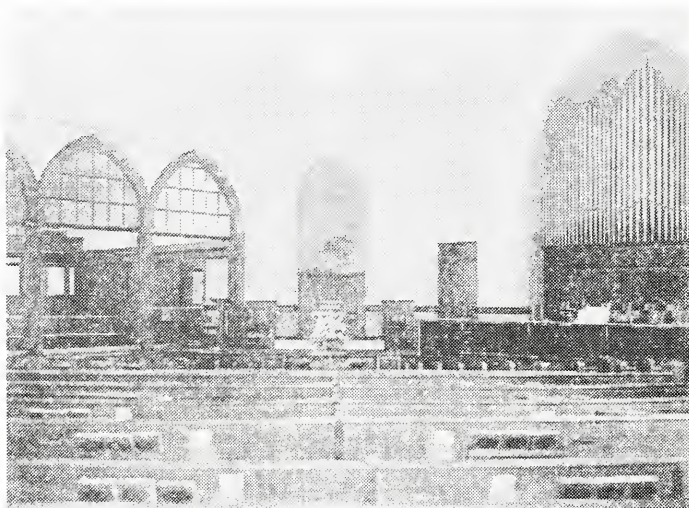


Adamsville Baptist Church – 1985

Adamsville Baptist Church had its beginning in September, 1958. Sponsored by the Neuse Association, our church designated one-half of its State Mission Fund to the new Adamsville Church. M.A. Shaver, who had led and served our Sunday School as superintendent for 16 years (1938-1954), took an active part in organizing the Adamsville Church and continues today as its leading member. M.A. Shaver died June 1986.

A report of the Sanctuary Committee was ready in March 1958, and the next month it was approved. A building committee, composed of Charles S. Norwood, chairman, and Mrs. S.H. Hocutt, Raymond Bryan, Mrs. George Bain, D.N. Alexander, R.N. Rouse and Ray Bryan, Jr. was elected and empowered to hire an architect.

As soon as forty percent of the needed \$135,000 was in hand and the balance of sixty percent in signed pledges, the building committee could go to work. A large finance committee of 28 members was named with Raymond A. Bryan and Ben Burroughs, co-chairmen. The project was now underway. it was not to be completed until November 8, 1959, when 550 people filled the church for its first service in the new sanctuary.



Sanctuary Before The Renovation 1912-1959



Sanctuary After The Renovation - 1960

On January 3, 1960, we held the dedication of the new sanctuary. Echoes from the past were given by Dr. Annie D. Denmark, Mrs. Carroll Bryan, and Basil Watkins, son of George T. Watkins, our former pastor (1908-1922). The principal messages were given by Dr. Douglas M. Branch, General Secretary of the State Convention, and Dr. S.L. Stealy. Special music by our Minister of Music, E. Bruce Sloop, concluded the program. A brochure was prepared giving pictures of the interior of the church before and after, as well as pictures of former pastors and our present pastor, Gilmer A. Cross and family. A short history of the church and the entire church membership were printed in the brochure. The local newspaper gave pictures and reports of the event. Many memorials were given at this time in the way of furniture, pews, pulpit and the like. A list of these memorials is carried in special book of Church Memorials. it is displayed in the north vestibule of the church. \$125,000 was the cost of this improvement to the church.

Goldsboro was now a city of 26,000. Our church budget was \$78,000. John L. Henderson was chairman of the Board of Deacons. Robert E. Bryan was chairman of the Board of Budget-Finance. Simon Jessee was superintendent of Sunday School. E. Bruce Sloop was Minister of Music; Mrs. A.A. Loftin, Financial Secretary; B.G. Stowe, Church Treasurer; Mrs. W.A. Jackson, Church Clerk; Mrs. John Getsinger, Librarian; Dr. Annie D. Denmark, President of W.M.U.; George E. Bain, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

The church received the gift of an elevator that enabled the elderly to reach the sanctuary without climbing many steps. This was a gift from "The Family and Friends" of John L. Henderson, who died while serving as chairman of the Board of Deacons.

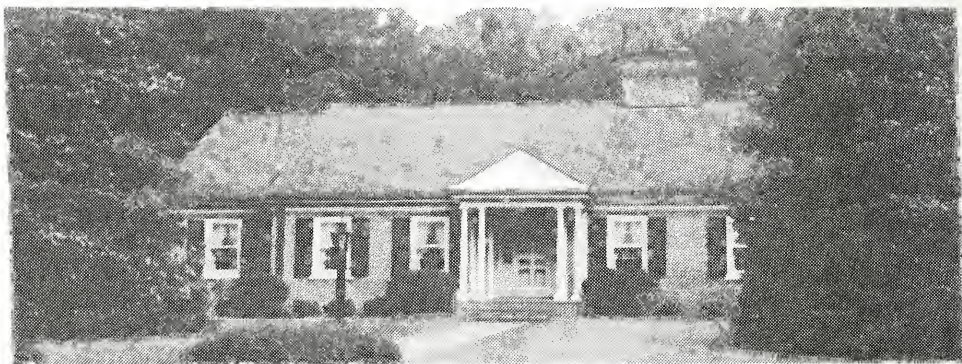


MR. RAYMOND BRYAN
Co-Chm. Bldg. Finance Committee



MR. J. BEN BURROUGHS
Co-Chm. Bldg. Finance Committee

In July, 1963, it was announced that a vacant lot at 1903 E. Walnut Street had been given to the church as a site for a new parsonage. The lot and the parsonage was a gift to the church by R.A. Bryan. Construction was begun immediately, and in April, 1964, Mr. & Mrs. Cross lived in the completed, beautiful home that the church is proud to possess until his death in November of 1969. Dr. Smith moved in shortly after in early 1970. Raymond A. Bryan, the donor, died September 1983.



Parsonage, 1903 East Walnut Street

A report from a long range Planning Committee had not only recommended the need of a new parsonage, but also a plan to renovate the Education Building. Estimates for the renovation ran up to \$87,000, but it was agreed that the job could be done so a Building Committee was named with John R. Crawford, Jr. as chairman. A Fund Raising Committee was named with D.N. Alexander as chairman. The old parsonage at 404 Walnut was sold for \$16,500 and the proceeds placed in the Education Building program. Over \$100,000 was spent to make the building more usable.



BUDGET PLANNING COMMITTEE

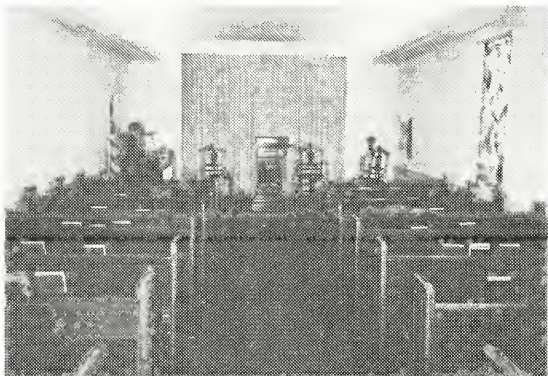
Left to right: Mrs. W.S. Gibson; R.A. Bryan, Sr.; B.G. Stowe; D.N. Alexander; Charles Norwood, Chairman; Mr. Cross, Pastor; George Bain, General Chairman, Forward Program; Dr. Ralph Bland; Mrs. Julian Gaskill; Mrs. Cecil Best.

This program would not only make a complete new Sunday School facility modern and up to date, but it would also change the front exterior of the building for the first time, making it look like an education building rather than an office and store building. One of the new features would be a conference room for the use of the governing boards of the church. In appreciation of many years of service rendered by D.N. Alexander and J. Ben Burroughs, the room was dedicated to their memory. Both men died before the renovating program was complete. The furnishing of this room was made possible by the many memorial gifts to the church honoring these men.

In October, 1965, Mrs. Fred Harrell resigned her post as educational director, a position she had held for ten years. Mrs. Harrell meant more than her title indicated to the First Baptist Church. She was capable of filling any position of the church and could answer any question about the church and its activities. A service of appreciation was held at the time of her resignation. Representatives from all departments of the church spoke words of commendation and love. Gifts of silver from the church and from the W.M.U. were presented to Mrs. Harrell. Soon after her resignation, her health failed. She declined rapidly and died August 27, 1967.



Mrs. F.L. Harrell
Director of Education



The Laura Harrell Chapel

For some time the need and desire for a church chapel had been expressed. Now with the many memorial gifts to Mrs. Harrell and others, it was possible to start the project. The Men's Bible Class room, 15'x45', lent itself to the need. Sam H. Hocutt, as Building Chairman, led a committee in planning and building the chapel, which upon completion was dedicated the **Laura Harrell Memorial Chapel**. Approximately \$8,000 was spent in its beautification. Dedication services of the chapel were held October 30, 1968.

In 1966, George E. Bain was chairman of the Board of Deacons. Our church budget totaled \$95,000. The Building Fund of Brookside Mission had reached \$23,856. It was evident that the building of a church would not materialize due to the changes taking place in the community. It was agreed that \$15,879 of the

total Building Fund had come from the Cooperative Program. Therefore, a check for this amount was mailed to Raleigh to replace the deductions we had made over the past twelve years. The balance of the building fund was absorbed in our renovation programs.

Mrs. Lois Carter served our church as bookkeeper from 1962 until December, 1965, when Mrs. Ruth Kemp began her employment as Financial Secretary.

Mrs. Ellen Piner resigned as Minister of Music in 1966 and was followed by Mr. Gordon Fletcher. Mr. Larry Austin served as Minister of Education from March,, 1967 to June, 1970.

In June,, 1967, our church approved the purchase of a new pipe organ from The Mollar Company. This was a 20 rank organ requiring two organ chambers. Cost of the organ, console and choir changes totaled \$43,000.

Our church approved a suggestion of William R. Crow, chairman of the Board of Deacons, that we grant Mr. Cross a six weeks leave of absence and send him on the Baptist Philippine Crusade. This was from November to December 20, 1968.

In October, 1968, a motion was made by our church in conference that we abolish the Advisory Council. A special meeting was set for January, 1969 to consider this proposal. The meeting was held but the proposal was rejected. However, an amendment to the By-Laws was made that reduced the number of board meetings. A joint meeting of the two boards, Deacons and Budget Finance, to be held quarterly, was to replace the special quarterly meeting of the Advisory Council.

Mr. Cross and our church were honored when he was elected President of the General Board of the State Convention in 1968. He continued this office into 1969. He appeared to be in perfect health, but on Monday, June 16, 1969, on a trip to Caswell Assembly, he suffered a severe heart attack shortly after arriving at the retreat. He died enroute to a hospital. Goldsboro was shocked with the news of his death. He was only 59 years of age.

On Wednesday afternoon the church was overflowing with people who came to pay a last tribute to him. The funeral service was conducted by close minister friends. After the service, his body was carried to Lexington, N.C. for interment.



Mrs. L. Woodrow Kemp (Ruth)

A Pulpit Committee composed of Dr. M.G. Delbridge, chairman, George E. Bain, Ida Williams, William L. Powell and Virginia C. Henderson, visited several churches in search of a new minister. When they visited the Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, North Carolina, and heard Reverend Leon Smith preach, they knew that their search was over. Leon Smith^{32p}, a native of Belton, South Carolina, graduated from Anderson College, Anderson, South Carolina. He studied one year at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. before entering Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest. Here he received the Bachelor of Divinity and the Master of Theology. He received Clinical pastoral Training at the N.C. Baptist Hospital. Previous church experience includes: Pastor, BonLee Baptist Church, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Lenior, N.C., Associate pastor, Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, N.C.



E. LEON SMITH
Pastor, First Baptist Church

Most ministers like to choose their own staff, change the order of service, create a new weekly letter and elect more committees. Leon Smith did all of this and more.

After a period of adjustment, the first major change in our church was the rewriting of our Bylaws which began in 1970 and ended in 1979, a document of 13 pages. Revised and revised, then laid aside.

In 1971 we started Day Child Care with 30 preschool children enrolled. A portion of the first floor of the Education Building was to be used. By 1975 the Child Care had grown to 100 children and 13 employees with a budget of \$100,000 a year. It was in 1980, nine years later, that an addition to the Bylaws, Article III, created a committee to supervise day care, requesting that they contribute to the church its share of expenses for lights, heat and water, kitchen expenses, and also to render monthly financial statements to the church and funnel all money through the Church Treasury. Mrs. Emily Powell and Ida Williams, sponsors, Mrs. Helen Barbour, treasurer.

In 1972 Dallas Prestwood of Hartsville, S.C. became our Minister of Education. He resigned in 1976 and was replaced by Sam Everette. A reception for Sam Everette was held July, 1976. W.R. Crow was then Chairman of the Board of Deacons, and George E. Bain was Secretary.

^{32p} See *Biographies of Pastors, Part II*

The Church Memorial Committee promoted the refurbishing of our social room and dedicated it as The Gilmer H. Cross Fellowship Hall. On March 3, 1973, a portrait of Rev. Cross was presented to the church by Mrs. Cross. Dr. Annie D. Denmark and Dr. Perry Crouch were the speakers for the occasion. The Cross family, including Mrs. Cross, daughter Elizabeth Ann and son-in-law Charles Hillard, and two grandchildren participated in the unveiling.

In May, 1973, congratulations to E. Leon Smith was in order. He had completed work required to receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina.

The Mary Crawford Norwood Scholarship Fund was established in 1974. Mary Crawford Norwood, long time teacher and WMU President, died November 29, 1973. She had been a member of the church for 60 years. She was one of the first group to be baptized in the new church in May 1913. She left \$25,000 to the church, one-half of which was to be set up for helping young church members go to college. After ten years, the fund had increased by \$20,000 enabling 45 annual gifts to 35 young people to enter college over the past nine years.

At this time Article V was added to the Bylaws. It provides a Trustee Trust Fund for capital gifts from estates. These funds are to be used only for capital improvement and expansion and only disbursed by order of the church in conference. Pressing need for funds for maintenance of buildings soon dissipated this fund and the Article V was suspended by the Deacons.

In 1962 a long range study committee had recommended our greatest need for expansion was a ground level fellowship hall but more land must be acquired before this wish could be fulfilled. Now in 1975 the corner lot, known as the Edgerton-Strosnider property, became available on the death of Mrs. Anna Strosnider. A quick transaction and two substantial gifts secured the property at a cost of \$45,000 plus \$5,000 requirement to make the lot useful. Shortly afterwards the B.G. Thompson warehouse property that adjoins the Education Building on the north was purchased for \$22,000. The church borrowed money from the bank for this transaction. Still another lot was needed to complete our land needs. This was the adjoining property of the Hanger Estate. This was added at a cost of only \$5,000, making our total land acquisition \$77,000 in 1975.

We were now ready to start our expansion program, "Together We Build" which had been suggested in 1962. By this time the church had moved into transporting young and old to church and resorts, also to a renewal of Wednesday night fellowship suppers. This required the purchase of a van. For the next



This portrait of Gilmer Cross was presented to the Church March 3, 1973 by Mrs. Cross and family.

three years we were purchasing an additional van each year until we had three vans. Soon one of the vans was given to Child Care.

In 1976 a Building Survey & Planning Committee headed by Mrs. Lola Delbridge was appointed. The committee soon came to the same conclusion of the committee of 1962 that a large ground level fellowship hall was their first priority. The next step was to engage the services of Everitt Floyd, Church Building Systems, as architect and planner.

Our first contract and goal was to build a fellowship hall on the Strosnider lot and a connecting office complex at a cost not to exceed \$500,000 and not to start until we had received \$400,000 in cash and pledges.

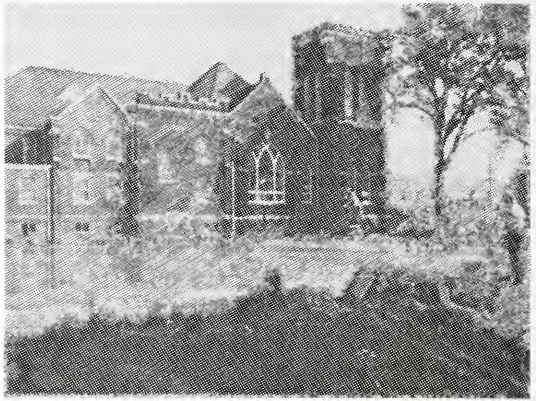
Our "Together We Build" banquet was set for April 2, 1978, with Joe James, Director. Approximately 400 were present who made pledges of \$390,000. By May 18, 1978, we were over our goal, \$420,330, total cash and pledges. After several months of meeting with the architect, the committee recommended the plans be accepted but preferred the local firm of T. A. Loving Company of Goldsboro as building contractor. (R.A. Bryan and son, Ray Jr., being members of the church). Recommendations of the committee were duly approved. The Trustees and the church in conference authorized the Building Committee to negotiate a contract for not over \$750,000 with T. A. Loving Company. Many items had been added after our first goal had been reached so quickly. A gym was added to cover the Hanger lot. Groundbreaking was set for September 7, 1978. We paid off the architect \$27,500 to avoid a larger sum (percentage on the total to be spent). Our total pledges \$410,658 on the first annual report of May 10, 1979 was to be paid over three years. Only \$200,000 had been paid in cash, necessitating a bank loan of \$200,000 plus \$300,000 for a total of \$500,000 borrowed money to complete the building by November 4, 1979. Dedication Day and Open House was December 6, 1979. Approximately 400 guests visited the reception and tour of the new building.

These were trying times financially for the congregation and difficult to keep up with our cooperative program obligations, but determination to complete our enlargement program moved the church into a second "Together We Build" pledging for another three year commitment, 1981-1984. Joe James again led the church in this last pledging drive and tabbed it "Debt No More In Eighty-Four" and that was it. The balance was met in full, December 7, 1984. A remarkable experience for a congregation of 900 people. In six years we had enlarged our property, land and buildings by 100% at a cost of over one million dollars and increased our annual budget by 50% over the same period. On January 7, 1985, Dr. Roy Young of State Baptist, Raleigh, was our guest speaker to help us celebrate the burning of the last note to seal "Debt No More In Eighty-Four."

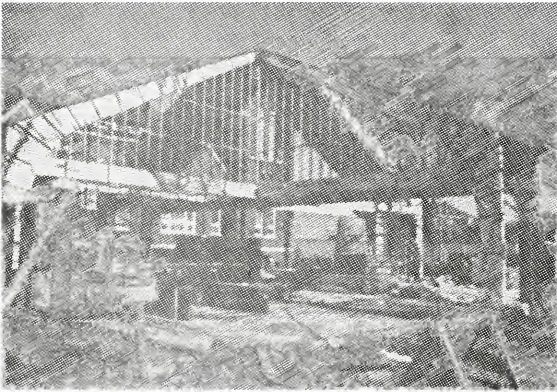
Together We Build - 1978-1979



Lola Delbridge, Chairman
Groundbreaking, Sept. 7, 1978



Strosnider lot cleared for Fellowship Hall



Fellowship Hall in the making, January 1979



Joe James, Campaign Director



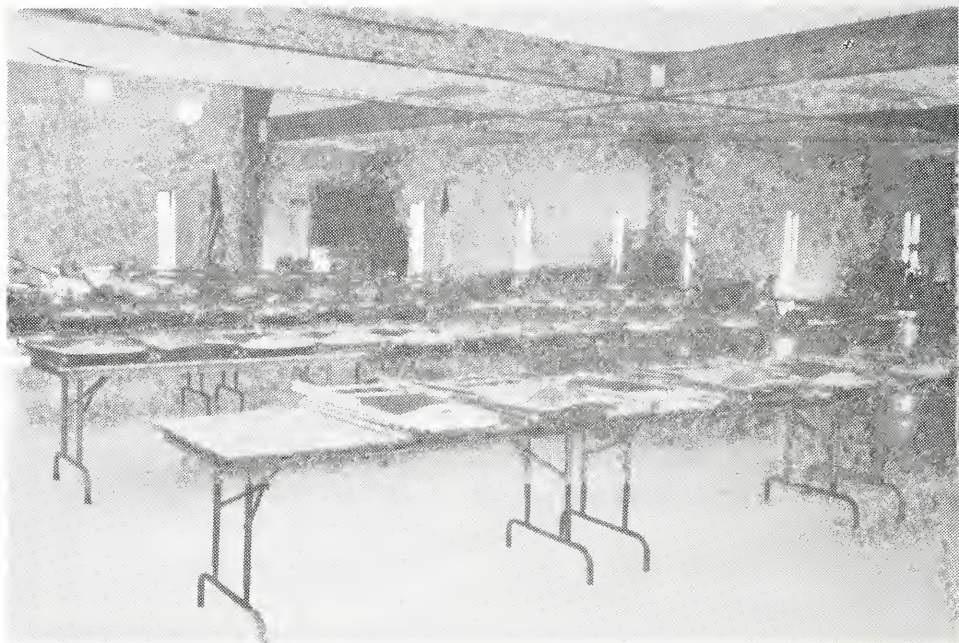
Fellowship Hall completed, December 6, 1979



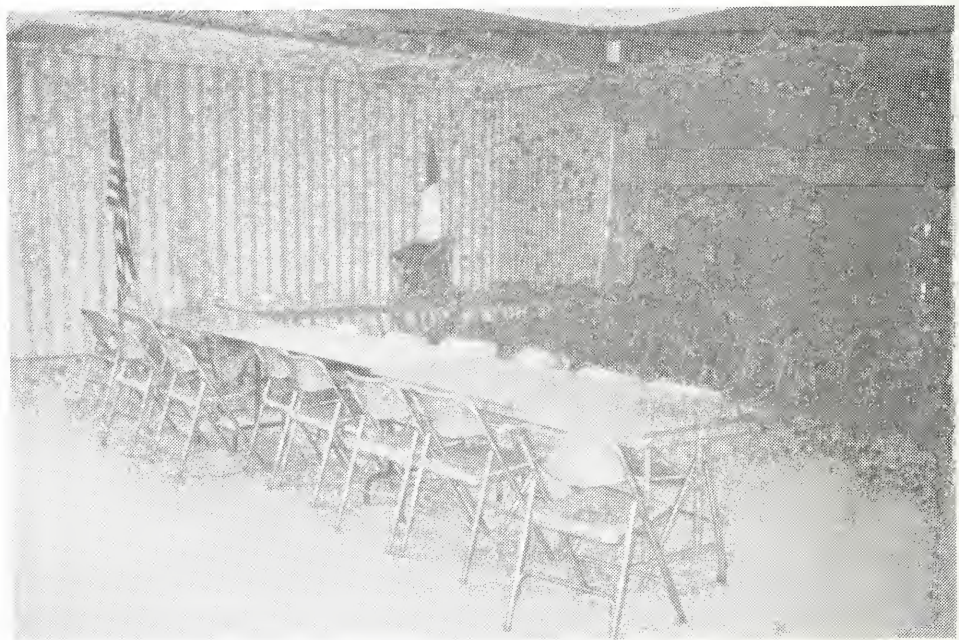
Our new Grade A kitchen



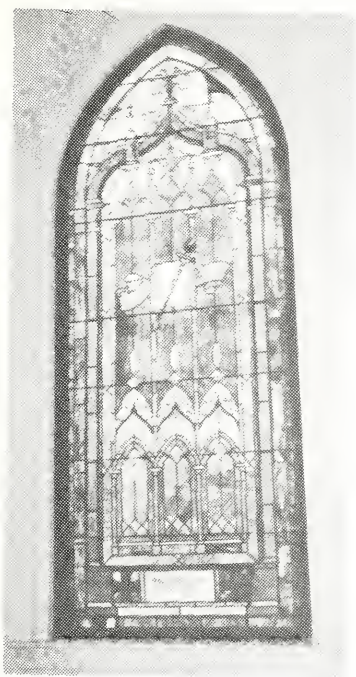
Fellowship Hall as it appears from Chestnut Street, 1980.



Our spacious fellowship hall will seat 400 and can be divided into 4 separate rooms.



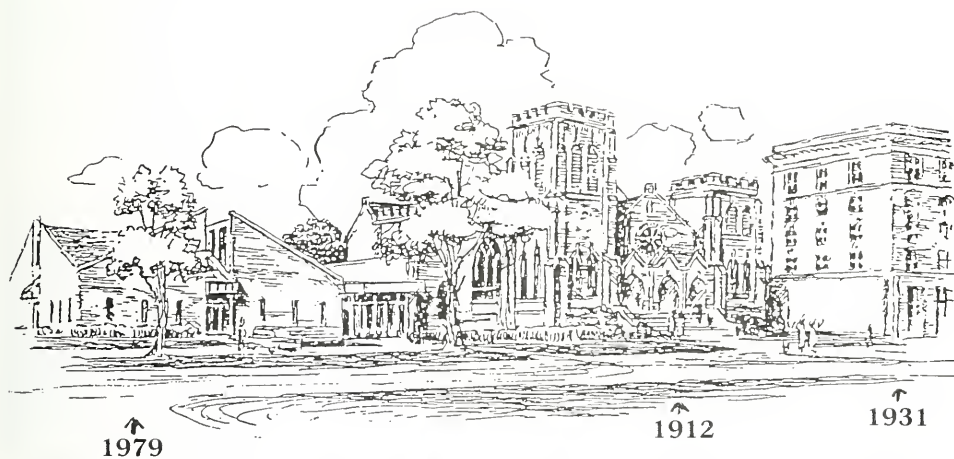
Fellowship Hall Setup



Our Founder, Charles J. Nelson
Memorial Window now at en-
trance to new fellowship hall.



Paul Olsen, Artis (1912)



First Baptist Church Goldsboro, North Carolina

PART II

1. Biographical Sketches of Founder and Thirty-Two Pastors (1843-1980).
2. Eminent Church Members of Early Years.
3. Outstanding Church Officers and Leaders Listed in the Church Minutes.



DAVID THOMSON
First Pastor 1843



E. LEON SMITH
1969 -

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

FOUNDER AND PASTORS OF

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GOLDSBORO, N.C.

1843-1970

FOUNDER

Charles J. Nelson	1815 -	1899
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PASTORS

David Thomson	1754 -	1844
1st Pastor	1843 -	1843

George Dupree		
2nd Pastor	1843 -	1844

William Robinson	1816 -	1877
3rd Pastor	1844 -	1846

Amos Johnston Battle	1805 -	1870
4th Pastor	1847 -	1850

Harley Minor		
5th Pastor	1850 -	1851

Joshua J. James	1814 -	1892
6th Pastor	1851 -	1852

Samuel Wait	1789 -	1867
7th Pastor	1853 -	1856

David Coulling		
8th Pastor	June 1856 -	1858

George Bradford		
9th Pastor	Feb. 1858 - Jan.	1859

Rev. George William Keesee	1830 -	1861
10th Pastor	Feb. 1859 - July	1861

Dr. Needham Bryan Cobb	1836 -	1905
11th Pastor	Jan. 1862 - Jan.	1863

Elder Pleasant Daniel Gold	1833 -	
12th Pastor	Jan. 1863 - Sept.	1864

Rev. Theodore Whitfield 13th Pastor	1834 - Sept. 1864 - Apr.	1894 1866
Rev. J.B. Hardwicke 14th Pastor	1830 - Apr. 1866 - Mar.	1868
Rev. George W. Sanderlin 15th pastor	1843 - 1868 - Mar.	1899 1871
Elder Columbus Durham 16th Pastor	1844 - Aug. 1871 - Jan.	1876
Rev. Fitz Henry Ivey 17th Pastor	1831 - Feb. 1876 - Jan.	1893 1883
Dr. Theodore Whitfield 18th Pastor (2nd Term)	1834 - Mar. 1883 - Jan.	1894 1886
Thomas Dixon, Jr. 19th Pastor	1864 - Oct. 1886 - May	1946 1887
Rev. J.S. Dill 20th Pastor	Mar. 1888 - Dec.	1890
Rev. Jesse Hartwell Edwards 21st Pastor	1853 - Mar. 1891 - Aug.	1915 1893
Rev. C.A. Jenkins 22nd Pastor	1850 - Sept. 1893 - May	1915 1895
Rev. James Long 23rd Pastor	July 1895 -	1897
Rev. William Cary Newton 24th Pastor	1873 - Oct. 1897 -	1900
Rev. C.A. Jenkins 25th Pastor (2nd Term)	1850 - 1900 -	1915 1903
Dr. W.F. Fry 26th Pastor	1868 - 1903 -	1941 1908
Rev. George Thomas Watkins 27th Pastor	1864 - 1908 -	1932 1922
Dr. Zeno Wall 28th Pastor	1882 - 1922 - Fall	1967 1925

Rev. C.V. Brooks	1869 -	1938
29th Pastor	1925 - May	1926
Rev. Alfred J. Smith	1889 - May	1950
30th Pastor	May 1926 - May	1950
Rev. Gilmore Cross	May 1910 - June	1969
31st Pastor	Jan. 1951 - June	1969
Dr. E. Leon Smith	Jan. 1940 -	
32nd Pastor	Nov. 1969 -	



Parsonage, Sunday School Room, 125 S. John St. 1st Church 1858



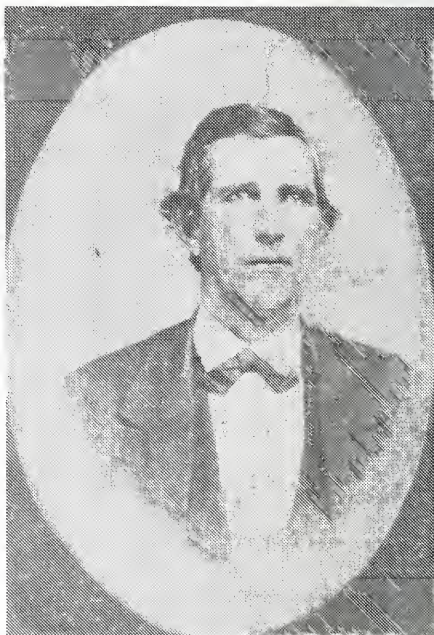
Present Church 1912 and Education Building 1938

Founder
CHARLES JOHNSON NELSON
1815 - 1899

Charles J. Nelson, son of Moses Nelson and Charity Purser Nelson, was born in Craven County, October 21, 1815. His father was sheriff of Craven County. He was also a wealthy farmer.

Charles Nelson was married first to Sarah Heron in 1835. There were five children of this marriage. A son, Richard H., became a prominent lawyer of Baltimore, Md. Another son, Charles E. was killed on Center Street by a train in 1875. In 1880, Nelson married Mrs. Fannie S. Robinson.

Nelson came from New Bern to Waynesborough in 1839, the year of the Great Festival, as a carriage builder. Waynesborough was the County Seat of Wayne County and had been incorporated as a town in 1787. It was located on the northern banks of the Neuse River near the mouth of the Little River.



Brother Nelson, disturbed over the lack of religion in Waynesborough, was determined to do something about it. He started a Sunday School in 1840, which, with the help of his friends, became the organized First Baptist Church in 1843. His associates were Robert McNabb, George W. Dupree from Wake County, and David Thomson of Smithfield. Thomson became the first pastor of the church while Nelson continued to serve as the superintendent of the Sunday School. Nelson was most faithful and did not miss attendance for the next 22 years. He lived to celebrate 55 years of leadership in the church and Sunday School. In 1895 the church paid a great tribute to the man who had spent a lifetime in service for his church. A special service and program was held in his honor. A copy of the program has been preserved and is attached to this sketch.

In 1850 when the church moved from Waynesborough to Goldsboro, it was necessary for it to meet in the Academy building located on the southeastern corner of Chestnut and John, for it had no church building of its own.

Brother Nelson moved his carriage business from Waynesborough and established it on South John Street. It was a good and successful business and Nelson was a good manager and prospered, making it possible for him to do many things for his church. He was authorized by the church in 1856 as Trustee to purchase from J.J. Baker, the lot on which the first church was built. He was named chairman of the building committee.

For eight years before the first church was completed in 1858, Brother Nelson's work bell on his carriage shop was used to call worshipers to church on Sunday morning. Not until one year after completing the new church did it

muster up \$150.00 to purchase a church bell from Raleigh. That bell was moved to the present church in 1911 and is still used to call the worshipers to worship on Sunday morning. The oldest church bell in Goldsboro in active use today.



311 South John Street, Waynesborough home of C.J. Nelson. Moved to 307 South John Street in 1850 and used as Nelson Buggy and Harness Factory 1850-1895. Turned around and added front porch in 1895 for his second wife, Fannie Robinson. J.J. Robinson, brother of Nelson's second wife Fannie Robinson, moved in after the death of Nelson in 1899 and remained there the rest of his life. His daughter Margaret Robinson Sears, continued to live here until her death in 1982.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF REV. CHARLES JOHNSON NELSON

(Copied from Biblical Recorder of Raleigh, N.C. The original paper is owned by Mrs. H.H. Johnson of Baltimore, Maryland, a grandniece)

Rev. Charles Johnson Nelson, business man, Sunday School Worker, Church Founder, Preacher, Missionary.

On the evening of January 2, 1899, he quietly breathed his last. There were none who witnessed the hour of parting whose minds did not follow the sainted spirit up to the Heavenly Rest, rather than linger in thought upon the lifeless form that lay before us.

He gave largely of his means. Another noble tribute of his life work is the strength of the Colored Baptist Churches in Goldsboro. After the War he at once set himself to provide them a house of worship. They are now the strongest Denomination among the colored people of the town. Brother Nelson preached to the colored people, occasionally, even in his old age. The large gathering of colored people in the gallery at his funeral attested their esteem for him.



Nelson marker - Willowdale Cemetery

This program of Nelson's 55th Anniversary is included in our History Book in its entirety because it is the oldest piece of church literature we have and tells so much about the early church and its first members.

WAYNESBORO
1840.

GOLDSBORO
1895.

55th ANNIVERSARY.

"Whatsoever ye do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."


☞ ☉ ☞
Sunday School,
said to be the
organized in
☞ ☉ ☞



☞ ☉ ☞
1st Baptist Church,
first S. School
Wayne County.
☞ ☉ ☞

Rev. C. J. Nelson,
Organizer and 22 years Supt.

Goldsboro, N. C., August 11th, 1895.

 OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL was organized with seven members, in the year 1840 at Waynesboro, then the county seat of Wayne county, in a free meeting house by Chas. J. Nelson who became its Superintendent, which position he held for twenty-two years. As an outgrowth of this school, in the year 1843 what is now known as the First Baptist church of Goldsboro, was organized with five members. During the first eight years after its organization services were held alternately at this free meeting house in Waynesboro and the old Academy building in Goldsboro that stood where St. Paul church now stands. In the year 1851 services at Waynesboro were abandoned, most of the inhabitants having moved to Goldsboro, the new county seat. For several years there was no church in the "Borough" supplied with a bell, and services were announced by the ringing of the bell at the carriage shop of Chas. J. Nelson. At night the old tallow candle, the kind our mothers made, was the only available light. We are glad that the organizer of our School has been spared to meet with us on this occasion. And be it remembered that though he is now 80 years of age he is regular upon the attendance of the services of the church.

LIST OF SUPERINTENDENTS—1840-1895.

C. J. Nelson.	George W. Sanderlin.	J. Y. Joyner.
Peter Bogart.	J. J. Robinson.	T. B. Parker.
William Bogart.	Newton Green.	H. L. Grant.
Wesley Whitaker.	J. E. Peterson.	C. J. Rivenbark.
	Maj. Clark.	

LIST OF PASTORS.

David Thomson	P. D. Gold—1863-64
George Dupree	Theodore Whitfield—1864-66, also 83-86
William Robinson—1843	J. B. Hardwick—1866-68
A. J. Battle	George W. Sanderlin—1868-71
Harly Minor	C. Durham—1871-76
J. J. James	F. H. Ivey—1876-83
Dr. Samuel Waite	Thomas Dixon, Jr.—1886-87
Daniel Couling—1856-58	J. S. Dill—1888-90
George Bradford—1858-59	J. Hartwell Edwards—1891-93
G.W. Keese—1859-61	Chas. A. Jenkins—1893-95
N. B. Cobb—1862-63	Wm. Carey Newton—1895, present pastor

Following Members of our Church Ordained to the Ministry.

Rev. J. T. Albritton, Rev. C. J. Nelson, Rev. J. W. Millard, Rev. J. T. Edmundson,

Our Anniversary Poem.



Rev. Jno. T. Albritton.

Teacher of Class No. 5 in 1857.

Ordained to Ministry in 1859.

In a little Union Chapel,
On the border of the Neuse,
Just a mile from fair Goldsboro
We first blossomed into use.
Brother Nelson was the founder
Fifty-five bright years ago,
If you once should doubt my story
He is here to tell you so.

And his hand hath ever reached us,
Strongest aid in time of need,
And no Sunday School hath ever
Found a truer friend indeed.
Rev. C. J. Nelson founder,
Please do not forget the name,
And the Rev. J. T. Albritton
Remember just the same.

He will preach to you this morning,
And his words you glad will hear
When I tell you that him first.
Our church sent forth good news to bear.
Yes, he the first stands with us,
But full many since that time
From our midst have told the story
That is loved in every clime.

We have met for celebration
Of a great and glad event;
For more than half a century
In harmony is spent.
And may the coming seasons
Bring us freedom from all strife,
Till we all clasp hands in heaven
In the higher better life.

Now, we welcome you, our comrades,
And we welcome you, our friends,
Every faithful, fellow-worker
Whose joyous cheering presence lends.
Join us in our prayers and singing
And each joyful note prolong;
When our work below is ended,
May we join the glad New Song.

Morning Service.

11:00 a. m.--INVOCATION.

Praise services by the Supt.

11:20 a. m.--Offering for Home Missions.

11:25 a. m.--Quartette--'Our Sunday School' { J. J. Robinson,
J. W. Sadler,
Mrs. Bettie Stanley,
Miss Irene Peterson.

11:30 a. m.--Sermon--Rev. J. T. Albritton.

At a called meeting held by the church for the transaction of some business two (2) colored persons, CHLOE AND RACHEL, BOTH THE PROPERTY OF brother Jesse J. Baker, presented themselves as candidates for Baptism and for admission into the church. After relating their christian experience a vote, for their Baptism and admission, was taken which was unanimous.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

4:30 p. m.—Praise service led by Willis J. Brogden.

Scriptural reading Review present quarter.

LESSON I.—*Leader* And God spake all these words saying,

Teachers I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of Bondage.

School. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

LESSON II *Leader.* And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin.

Teachers. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; but if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of the book which thou hast written.

School And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

LESSON III. *Leader.* Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die.

Teachers It shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations.

School. That ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between clean and unclean.

LESSON IV.—*Leader.* We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you.

Teachers. Come thou with us, and we will do thee good.

School. For the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.

LESSON V.—*Leader* And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Teachers. But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

School. And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched.

LESSON VI.—*Leader.* And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole.

Teachers. And it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

School. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

4:50 p. m.—Recitation. “The Master’s Call” by Emma Parker.

5:00 p. m.—Solo by Mrs. Bettie Stanley.

Offering Foreign Missions.

5:10 p. m.—Lesson 6 “The Brazen Serpent” taught by pastor W. C. Newton.

5:30 p. m.—“They sing a new Song”, by Sunday School Choir.

5:35 p. m.—Address—“Little Things” by H. B. Parker.

Praise the Lord.

WHY?

1. He is worthy. 2 S. 22:4.
2. He is great. 1 Ch. 16:25.
3. He is our maker. Ps. 139:14.
4. He is honorable. Ps. 66:2.
5. He is good. Jer. 33:11.
6. He is loving and kind and true. Ps. 138:2

HOW?

1. With loud voice. Lu. 19:37.
2. In song. Ps. 9:11.
3. In stillness. Ps. 84:4.
4. With grace in the heart. Col. 3:16.
5. With psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Eph. 5:19, 20.

WHEN?

1. In secret. Ps. 149:5,6
2. In public. Ps. 149:1; Lu. 24:53.
3. On road. Lu. 2:20.
4. At prayer. Da. 6:10; Ph. 4:6.
5. When all's well. Ps. 148:1.
6. When in trouble. Ac. 16:25.
7. Before battle to insure victory. 2 Ch. 20:22-25.
8. Continually. He. 13:15; Ph. 4:4.

CHARLES W. MCCROSSAN.

EVENING SESSION.

8:00 p. m.—Praise services by Gurney Smith.

8:15 p. m.—Early Reminiscences by Rev. Chas. J. Nelson.
Song, "Lambs of Jesus", by Childrens Choir.

8:30 p. m.—Recitation, "The Gleaner", by Lonnie Mannsfield.

Song No. 33, "Where hast thou gleaned to-day".

Recitation, "Little boys", by Jesse Hunt.

Recitation, "The Good Shepherd", by Beaula Smith.

Song, "I am Jesus Little Lamb", by Mary Howell.

Recitation—How we remember our Bible verses, by	{ Mittie Cotton, Maud Rivenbark, Lillian Kelley, Ada Howell, Carrie Durand, Richard Horne, Annie Pipkin.
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Song No. 380, "Singing as we Journey".

Recitation—"Brave and True", by Earl Rivenbark.

Recitation—"Little Lights", by	{ Mabel Stanley, Sallie Hollowell, Annie Pipkin, Annie Hines.
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Song No. 403, "Is your lamb burning my brother".

Recitation—"She hath given more than they all",
by Pearl Fields.

Offering State Missions.

Song No. 39, "I love to tell the story".

Benediction by Rev. C. J. Nelson.

OUR OFFICERS.

C. J. RIVENBARK, Supt.,	HUGH MAXWELL, Secty and Treas.,
W. G. BRITT, Asst. Supt.,	MRS. E. L. EDMUNDSON, Organist.

OUR TEACHERS.

J. J. Robinson, Sr. Grade, (associated with S. S. 41 years.)	Miss Lala Fields, Int. Grade, Miss Junia Mathis, Int. Grade,
Mrs. S. D. Petteway, Sr. Grade,	Miss Rena Hollowell, Int. Grade,
Mrs. Bettie Stanley, Sr. Grade,	Mrs. D. J. Rivenbark, 2d Pri. Grade,
W. G. Britt, Ad. Grade,	Miss Mary Farrior, 2d Pri. Grade,
Mrs. A. S. Turner, Ad. Grade,	Miss Minnie Grant, 2d Pri. Grade,
H. B. Parker, Int. Grade,	Miss Hattie Farrior, 1st Pri. Grade,
Mrs. E. L. Edmundson, Int. Grade,	Miss Mabel Grant, Special.

[FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL RECORD—October 27th, 1861.]

"We are pleased to know that a few soldiers have visited us to witness our proceedings, and to SPEND THE SABBATH IN A PROPER MANNER. One of the soldiers acted in the capacity of teacher *pro tem*. The others occupied their time in reading books from our library."

When we glance back these 55 years and see the little gathering in the Free-meeting house on the banks of the Neuse Sunday after Sunday, some of the little band walking three miles through sunshine and rain that they might be taught in the old blue-back speller and hear brother Nelson read to them God's word and then, as we retrace the years to the present time and begin to view the thousands of souls that have been led to the Saviour, the many that have been instructed in the ways of truth and righteousness, the great good that has been done here and elsewhere as a result of this little beginning. We are glad, and begin to see that God indeed had a hand in the seed-sowing on the Neuse. Could we but remove the veil that hangs yonder and peep into the Courts of Heaven and behold the glorified bodies of those that were the fruits of our ministry as they tread the beautifully paved streets and sing the song of Moses and the Lamb, Oh! how joyfully we could sing "All hail the power of Jesus Name.

DAVID THOMSON
1791 - 1844
1st Pastor - 1843-1844

The Reverend David Thomson of Sampson County was one of the founders and the first minister of the Waynesborough Baptist Church, which was the forerunner of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro. Services were held for some years in the old Free Meeting House in Waynesborough. The first Sunday School was organized in 1840 by Charles J. Nelson, a carriage maker, and he became the first superintendent. In 1843 there was a formal organization of the Waynesborough Baptist Church. In 1851 services at Waynesborough were abandoned and for a time services were held in the old Academy Building in Goldsborough.

The Rev. David Thomson was born near Turkey in Sampson County in 1791, and was the son of Captain James Thomson, an officer in the North Carolina Militia during the Revolution and Lucy Ivey. Thomson attended Grove Academy in Kenansville. His father was Presbyterian and his mother an Episcopalian, but at an early age he was converted to the Baptist faith and was baptized by the Rev. Fleet Cooper.

In 1814 young David Thomson was ordained into the ministry, and in the same year became founder of Beulah Church on Ten Mile Swamp near Turkey. Around 1817-1819 he went as a missionary to Georgia and Alabama.

In the early 1820's the Reverend Thomson moved to Smithfield, where he bought a plantation in the country and built a home in town. Even though he went into the mercantile business and was postmaster of Smithfield, he continued to serve as pastor of various churches in Johnston County. He first married Sarah McCullers (1801-1836) and by her he had two daughters: Sarah (died young) and Ann (1831-1850), who married Dr. John Beckwith. Thomson later married Mrs. Pheriby Saunders Helme and by her he had one daughter, Lucy (1838-1844).

The Reverend David Thomson served for several years in the State Senate from Johnston County, and he was one of the promoters of the move to establish Wake Forest College. He was a member of the first Board of Trustees of Wake Forest and served until 1841.

Besides preaching for several years prior to 1843 at Waynesborough, the Reverend Thomson held services at other churches in Wayne. The records show that he preached the introductory sermon when the Eastern Baptist Association met at Bear Marsh Baptist Church in 1841.



David Thomson

The Reverend David Thomson and two daughter, Sarah and Lucy, all died on September 1, 1844, and are buried in the Old Town Cemetery in Smithfield. Traditionally, they were thought to be victims of an epidemic.

A local paper said of Thomson after his death, "As a man, a citizen, a Christian, he stood pre-eminent with all who had pleasure of his acquaintance. He held the individual confidence of all who knew him, as well as the community in which he lived, whose State Senator he had often been, with marked credit to each, the constituent and the representative."

The portrait accompanying this article was painted around 1825.

By Claude H. Moore

BIBLICAL RECORDER

Sept. 14, 1844

BRO. DAVID THOMPSON DIED

At Smithfield, Johnston county, on the 2d of September, inst., of congestion of the bowels, after a confinement of ten days, the Rev. David Thompson, and on the same day within a few hours of him, and of each other, his two little daughters, Sally and Lucy Ann – they of severe billious fever.

WILLIAM ROBINSON

1816 - 1877

(3rd Pastor - 1844)

William Robinson, educator, newspaper editor, lay preacher, politician and merchant, was born in Drumale, Londonderry County, Ireland, July 12, 1816. His parents were George and Mary Dempsey Robinson.

William Robinson came to Wayne County in 1840, a widower with four sons, Wm. G., James H., Windel T. and John R. He was in Old Waynesborough working with Charles J. Nelson when Nelson established the first Sunday School in the county. Later the Nelson Sunday School became the First Baptist Church. Robinson was named pastor of the church before it was a year old. He represented the church in October 1844 at the Union Baptist Assoc. held at Bear Marsh Church in Duplin County. He did not stay pastor very long as his principal vocation was that of a teacher and when Goldsboro was incorporated in 1847, we find William Robinson had opened his school in the Davis house on Chestnut Street. In the second town election he became a commissioner in February 1848. He turned merchant and operated a store near the corner of Center and Chestnut St. selling everything from groceries to buckshot.

William Robinson had married in 1846, Eliza Davis of Seven Springs area, a native of Lenoir County. It is said their first child, Dr. M.E. Robinson, was also the first child born in Goldsboro after it had become incorporated in June 1847. Other children of this couple were James D., Frank P. and Thomas Ruffin.

In 1850, Robinson started the first newspaper in Goldsboro which he called the *Goldsboro Patriot*. After several years he sold out to Maj. W.B. Gulick. He was associated with two other papers, *Rough Notes* and *New Era* until 1862.

Robinson's greatest service was in the field of education. In 1852 his older brother, John Robinson, wrote to ask if he a Catholic professor at Trinity College, Dublin, would be accepted in Wayne County. A quick reply brought John Robinson to Wayne County to join his brother William. They now operated a school at Seven Springs but soon they were in the Academy and later on South John Street at Elm. Their school was called the Wayne Institute and Normal College. They both worked at state level with Calvin H. Wiley, known as the father of N.C. Public School System. Wiley was the state's first Superintendent of Education.

The gathering of Civil War clouds found Robinson, a true Southerner, turn with anguish. One of his sons, Lt. William G. Robinson, had graduated from West Point and was an officer in the U.S. Army. He wrote his father to do all he could to prevent North Carolina from seceding, but that if it did, he would come home and fight with his brother. He did come home and became a Lt. Col. in the second N.C. Calvary Reg. Two other sons, John and Windel, served in the army. William and Eliza's four sons were too young to serve in the war.

William Robinson was elected Mayor of Goldsboro in 1870. He and his wife remained active members of the First Baptist Church for many years. William was a strong supporter and benefactor in every program of the church from its beginning. Mrs. Robinson was a leader of the women of the church. A memorial window to Mrs. Robinson in our present church sanctuary was given in 1912 by her son, Dr. M.E. Robinson.

William Robinson's last residence in Goldsboro was at 202 S. William St. After his death in 1877, his widow continued at the same address until her death in 1885. Their son, T.R. Robinson and his family continued to live at the same address until 1925.

Source: Goldsboro News-Argus
Minutes of First Baptist Church
J.M. Hollowell's History of Early Goldsboro
Family Records
Charles S. Norwood

AMOS JOHNSTON BATTLE

1805 - 1870

4th Pastor - 1847-1850

"Elder Amos Johnston Battle, son of Joel and Mary P. Battle, was born at Shell Bank, Edgecombe County, North Carolina, on the eleventh day of January, 1805. His parents, being of an influential family and having ample means, gave to their son the superior advantages of a good education, which he continued to enrich by close study and extensive reading during the whole of his laborious and useful life.

"Placed above the necessity of manual labor and possessing talents of a high order, the world proffered to him success and honors in the learned professions, the arena of politics and the emoluments of wealth, all of which he spurned as possessing inferior attractions to the sublimity and divine perfections of the Gospel of Christ.

"In his twenty-third year, traveling through the country on horseback from North Carolina to his plantation in Florida, he stopped at a country church called Mount Zion in Georgia. It was there that he gave his heart to God, united with the Church and was baptized by the Rev. Jesse Mercer, founder of the Mercer University in Georgia.

"Three years after, having returned to North Carolina, he was ordained to the ministry at a convention held with the Baptist Church at 'Rogers' Cross Roads,' in the County of Wake.

"On the seventh of January, 1830, he married Miss Margaret Hearne Parker, of Edgecombe County, N.C.

"In 1834 he was pastor of the Baptist Church in Nashville, N.C. in 1838 and 1839 he was pastor of the Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C. It was about that time that he was so interested in the building up of Wake Forest College, giving largely of his means and putting up out of private funds a large and handsome building.

"The Institute was crowded with students; the rooms were unfurnished, Amos J. Battle was appointed a committee of one to secure a sufficient number of double moss mattresses. There was no more useful member of the board than he. He ceased to attend these board meetings after 1844, as his time was devoted to the education of the young women of the Baptist Church. There are trees and shrubs now growing there that he planted with his own hands.

"At the same time he was giving largely for the building of a Baptist Church in Raleigh.

"From Raleigh he went to Wilmington, N.C., as pastor of the First Baptist Church there.

"Within the first six months of his pastorate there he baptized one hundred and fifty members into the Church.

"Learning that the Baptist Church in Raleigh was about to be sold for the heavy debt on it, he gave up the Wilmington Church and for two years (about 1843 and 1844) he traveled over the State to raise money for that debt. Some year or two after that, feeling that Wake Forest College was doing all that could be done for the young men of his native State, he turned his attention to the building up of a college for girls. In the year 1847 he traveled extensively in the Chowan Association and stirred up the men of means to start the school in Murfreesboro, now known as the 'Chowan Baptist Female Institute.' For the first year he was steward of the college.

"He was one of the leaders in the Baptist State Convention. He succeeded William Roles as Treasurer in 1836, and held the position until 1842. He was also Recording Secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Bible Society from 1837 to 1842. He was popular and public spirited. During the Mexican War he was chosen chaplain of the North Carolina Volunteer Regiment.

"In 1847-1850 he was the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro.

"In 1850 he moved to Wilson, N.C., where he lived until his death, spending his time traveling and preaching as an evangelist, sometimes in the eastern part of the State, and sometimes in the mountains. He was preaching at Rutherfordton when attacked with cancer near his right eye, from which he died in Wilson, September 24th, 1870."

Source: Tributes to my father & mother – Amos Johnston Battle by Jesse Mercer Battle

JOSHUA J. JAMES
1814 - 1892
6th Pastor - 1851-1853

In Memory of Rev. J.J. James

Rev. Joshua John James died at his home near Yanceyville, Caswell County, N.C., on April 6th, 1892, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

He was born in Halifax County, Va., Nov. 30th, 1814. After obtaining a neighborhood education, he prepared for college at a classical school in Danville, Va. He then was a student at Wake Forest College three sessions, and after this taught school for two years at Peytonsburg Academy. He entered Columbian University, Washington, D.C., where he graduated in 1841. He obtained a hope in Christ in his seventeenth year, and connected himself with the Baptist church in his native county. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1842 by the presbytery of the Dan River Association, at County Line Church, Halifax County, Virginia.

In June, 1843, he settled in Caswell County, N.C., and became pastor of Yanceyville and Trinity Baptist churches, located in the bounds of the Beulah Association, where he continued to labor for eight years. In 1851-1852 he was pastor of Goldsboro Missionary Baptist Church.

In 1852, he entered upon the agency of a Baptist Female College in Oxford, N.C. which he succeeded in establishing.

In 1853, he was called by the Baptist State Convention to the editorial chair of the BIBLICAL RECORDER, which paper he continued to edit until 1861, when he transferred it to Rev. J.D. Hufham.

The remainder of his life he spent with his family on his farm in Caswell County, N.C., with the exception of a few years when he filled short pastorates at High Point, Milton and Ephesus. He also aided his ministerial brethren in their meetings and preached whenever occasion seemed to require, until failing health unfitted him for public service—a period of ten years, during which time he could only now and then preach, and this always seemed to be a pleasure to him.

He was at one time Moderator of the Beulah Association, Trustee of Wake Forest College, and Vice President of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.



Rev. J. J. James
Editor Biblical Recorder
Picture Courtesy Baptist Historical
Collection

BIBLICAL RECORDER
April 27, 1892
by F.H. Jones

SAMUEL WAIT
1789 - 1867
7th Pastor - 1853-1856

Wait, Samuel, D.D. – One of the most judicious ministers of the State is accustomed to say that Dr. Wait did more for the development of North Carolina than any man who ever lived in the State. Whether this be true or not, it is certain that his influence upon the Baptists was very great and very good; and as the man to whom more than to any other they are indebted for their State Convention as the first agent of that body, and especially, as the founder of Wake Forest College, he has laid his people under the most sacred obligations ever to cherish his memory with grateful affection.

Dr. Wait was born in Washington Co., N.Y., Dec. 19, 1789; was baptized in Vermont, March 12, 1809; ordained at Sharon, Norfolk Co., Mass., June 3, 1818. Feeling the need of a better education, he went to Columbian College, Washington, D.C. It seems that his diploma bears the seal of Waterville College, Me., though his course of study was pursued at Columbian College, probably because the latter was not then empowered to confer degrees. He was

for a time tutor in Columbian College, and first came to North Carolina in February, 1827, with Dr. Staughton, on a collecting tour for the college. Passing through Newbern, Dr. Wait made a favorable impression on the Baptists of the place, and he settled as their pastor in November, 1827. it would seem that in passing through North Carolina his mind was looking to the development of the North Carolina Baptists, for his journal shows that, soon after, in Charleston, S.C., he asked Dr. Manley if he did not think a State Convention might be organized in North Carolina. Dr. Manly feared that the time for such a movement had not yet come, but we no sooner find Dr. Wait settled at Newbern than we see him laboring for the accomplishment of two things, – the organization of a Convention and the establishment of a Baptist organ. The Convention he was permitted to see formed, in March, 1830, in Greenville, Pitt Co., and he was not only present at its organization but became its first corresponding secretary. For four years he traveled over the State, preaching the gospel, enlightening the people as to the cause of missions, removing prejudices, and uniting the disintegrated Baptists into one body. So fully satisfied was he at this time of the necessity of a periodical that, though no one knew who would publish such a paper, or when or where it would be issued, he began to take the names of subscribers at once, and thus prepared the way for the establishment of the *Recorder*, which began a few years later. In August, 1832, the Convention, sitting at Reeves' chapel Chatham Co., resolved to establish a manual labor school at Wake Forest,



Rev. Samuel Wait
Courtesy Baptist Historical Collection

and a committee was appointed to secure a man from the North to take charge of it. In December following the board of the Convention met in Raleigh, and the former committee having failed to secure a master for their school, a new committee, consisting of Wm. Hooper, Thos. Meredith, John Armstrong, and Samuel Wait, was appointed, and three of this committee recommended Samuel Wait for this position. Dr. Wait accepted the appointment, but was advised to continue his agency "for the Convention, as the school was not yet ready to go into operation." The year 1833 was spent in circulating information about the school, in securing students, and furniture for the new establishment. From this time till June, 1846, a period of fourteen years, Dr. Wait was the president of this institution. In 1851 he became president of a female school in Oxford, having spent the intervening years as pastor of Yanceyville and Trinity churches, in Caswell County, and three years, 1853-1856, as pastor of the Missionary Baptist Church of Goldsborough.

In 1856 he retired to the home of his only child, Mrs. J.B. Brewer, at Wake Forest College, and spent the evening of his days amid the scenes of his usefulness, surrounded by loving kindred, and honored and respected by all. he died July 28, 1867. The State Convention, which met in Goldsborough the next autumn, expressed the desire that, as his history would be largely the history of the denomination in North Carolina, a memoir of him should be prepared by some suitable person. It was understood that Judge John Kerr was selected by his family to perform this service, and he expressed his willingness to undertake the grateful task, but for some cause it was never done.

Source: Cathcart's

THE BAPTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA

DAVID COULLING

1814 - 1886

8th Pastor - 1856-1858

David Coulling was born in Richmond, July 23, 1814, and died in Baltimore, December 28, 1886. During a large part of his life he practiced dentistry and preached as occasion offered. He was pastor in Goldsboro, N.C.; in Richmond, at what is now Pine Street Church; in Accomac, and more recently in King and Queen and Gloucester Counties, the last named being his place of residence after 1860. While in the Rappahannock Association he was pastor for several years of the Poroporone Church. This sketch is in substance the obituary from General Association minutes for 1887. He was especially gifted in prayer and his ministry was blessed with many conversions. A strong faith in the atonement upheld him through the feeble health of earlier years and under the sufferings of his last months.

Source: VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTERS by George Braxton Taylor
(Fourth Series). Page: 27.

Elder Coulling was married in 1855 and moved to Goldsboro in 1856 with his wife Annie. They were both well received. Coulling inspired the people to move out and build their first church. After two years the young couple returned to

Richmond, Pine Street Church. His wife, Annie W., died in Richmond in the 29th year of her age. Her amiable disposition won for her the love and esteem of all with whom she associated. The couple were the parents of two sons. Her original home was Accomac, Va.

Source: RELIGIOUS HERALD, Apr. 5, 1860 p. 56.

GEORGE WILLIAM KEESEE

1830 - 1861

10th Pastor: January 1859 - July 1861

DEATH OF REV. GEORGE WILLIAM KEESEE

It has seldom been our duty to record an event, more unexpected or melancholy, than the death of Elder Keesee. On Wednesday of last week, we called to see him and found him sick, but—as we thought—improving and out of danger; and when we parted, it was with the mutually expressed expectation of meeting again on Sunday evening, when we were to preach for him. On Saturday evening a letter from a friend informed us that he had died at twelve o'clock on Friday night, and when we reached Goldsboro as we were returning to this city on Monday morning, we received from his sorrowing flock confirmation of the sad intelligence.

Elder Keesee was a native of Richmond, Va., where he spent the most of his life. He had enjoyed excellent educational advantages, having graduated at Richmond College and taken a course of study at the University of Virginia, and had made himself a fair scholar. His mind—clear, practical and well-balanced—had been thoroughly trained and fitted for extensive usefulness by the discipline of his earlier years.

He made a profession of religion while quite young, and, if we mistake not, under the ministry of Rev. B. Manly, Jr., who was for several years his pastor, and of whom he often spoke in terms which showed that he still retained an affectionate remembrance of his former spiritual guide.

The first two years of his ministry were spent in Virginia, but with what success we know not. In January, 1859, he commenced his labors in Goldsboro under very great disadvantages and discouragements. The church, feeble and scarcely organized, was embarrassed by a considerable debt, which had been contracted to secure a house of worship—the first that the Baptists had ever had in the town. Quietly, earnestly, patiently he entered on his work, and lived to see the debt of the church paid off, to witness repeated revivals under his ministry, and to enjoy the pleasing assurance that the work of the Lord was prospering around him.

As a pastor he was highly gifted. His untiring industry and engaging manners, the kindness and cheerfulness of his disposition and the uniform consistency of his christian character, fitted him well for this position. His faithfulness in visiting the poor, comforting the sick and suffering, instructing the anxious, and urging christians to their duties is attested by the steady growth of his church and their strong love for him.

We knew him intimately for two years, and we have seldom seen one, whose whole being seemed to be brought so fully under the influence of renewing grace. With little of selfishness or worldly ambition, a temperament ardent but restrained by caution, a sound judgment, a mind well furnished and an earnest piety, he was not only a useful preacher and a successful pastor, but an agreeable companion and a faithful friend, and won for himself the confidence and esteem of the circle in which he moved.

He died, as he had lived, in perfect peace, and surrounded by those whose hearts he had won by his many excellencies of character. With his usual regard for the feelings of others he refused to allow his parents to be informed concerning his illness lest it might give them needless anxiety, and when in answer to his own enquiries, he was told that he must die, he replied, that he had wished to live that he might preach the Gospel. Just before he died he repeated and joined in singing two verses of what had been through life his favorite hymn – "And can I yet delay," &c., and then quietly, as a sleeping infant, breathed his last.

Source: BIBLICAL RECORDER

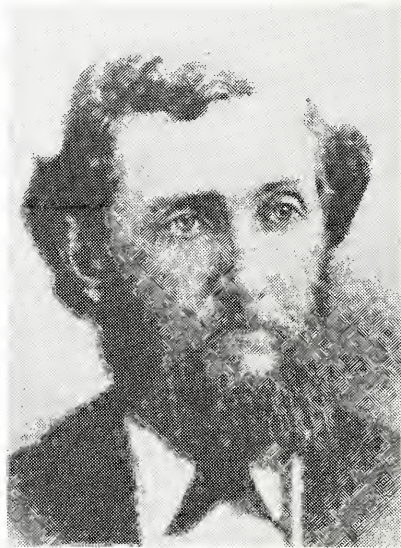
July 24, 1861

DR. NEEDHAM BRYAN COBB

1836 - 1905

11th Pastor: January 1862 - January 1863

Needham Bryan Cobb was born in Jones County, North Carolina, February 1, 1836, the son of William Donnell Cobb and Anne Spicer Collier. After graduating at Hughes Academy, he entered the University of North Carolina, graduating in three years in 1854. His M.A. degree from that institution in 1856 was the first earned Master's Degree granted by the University, and his picture and diploma hang in the University's Graduate Office in Chapel Hill. He taught school in Wayne and Cabarrus Counties and was the first teacher of shorthand in the state. While he maintained an interest in education throughout life, making an outstanding contribution in that field, he turned early to the study of law, being admitted to the bar at Greenville, North Carolina where he practiced for a while. He made a further change in profession and religious belief, leaving the Episcopal Church to become a Baptist minister. In 1889 Judson College conferred upon him a Doctorate of Divinity degree. He did a great deal of missionary



Dr. Needham Bryan Cobb
North Carolina Collection
Wilson Library, U.N.C.

work throughout the state and served as pastor for many Baptist churches, including that in Goldsboro. He held positions of State Superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School Board and as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and President of the Baptist State Convention for three terms.

During the Civil War, Doctor Cobb served as Chaplain in Lee's Army and was in charge of colportage work among Carolina troops until the end of the war. He and Doctor J.D. Hufham published "The Daily Record", the first daily paper printed in Raleigh after the war, with the permission of the Northern officer in charge of the city.

Doctor Cobb was known as an historian of his state and his denomination. He was the author of a small book of verse, "A Poetical Geography of North Carolina" containing a tribute to President Jefferson Davis at the time of his death and "A Reply To Gray's Elegy."

In 1859 Doctor Cobb married Martha Louisa Cobb, a distant relative, from Falkland, North Carolina, the mother of twelve of his children and an inspiration to him throughout her life. She died in 1888 and he married in 1891 Ellen DeLisle Fennell of Sampson County, a devoted wife and the mother of three of his other children.

Doctor Cobb died in 1905 in Sampson County, his grave being in the cemetery next to the old Baptist Church where he served as pastor at one time.

Collier Cobb, Jr.
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
January 12, 1970

Dr. Cobb was a very versatile teacher and he wrote his own textbook that was very unique. While teaching North Carolina geography his book of verse, "A Poetical Geography of North Carolina," had his students memorizing all the mountains, bays, sounds and creeks. He cataloged all 394 creeks in rhyme. A copy of Dr. Cobb's textbook is in our library, a gift to the church by Collier Cobb, Jr., a grandson.

While serving as pastor of the Missionary Baptist Church in Goldsboro, he was also President of Goldsboro Female College until the college was closed down due to the Civil War, 1862-63.

Both of Dr. Cobb's parents, William Donnell Cobb and Anne Spicer Collier, are buried in Willowdale Cemetery, Goldsboro, N.C., very near the Confederate Monument. Dr. Cobb's grandparents were John Cobb and Ann Nancy Whitfield. She was daughter of Brig. Gen. Bryan Whitfield of Whitehall (Seven Springs).

Charles S. Norwood
Goldsboro, N.C.
1975

ELDER PLEASANT DANIEL GOLD
1833 -
12th Pastor: January 1863 - September 1864

Elder Pleasant Daniel Gold, was born in Cleveland county, N.C., March 25th, 1833. In 1853, when in the 20th year of his age, he joined the Missionary Baptists at Double Springs church, and was baptized by Elder Joseph Suttle. A short time afterward, he set in with A.W. Burton, Esq., to read law, but before coming to the bar was moved by the revival discourses of Elder T.C. Teasdale, D.D., (who was then holding a protracted meeting at Shelby, N.C.) to engage in preaching the Gospel of Christ. In 1857 he was licensed by the church at Zion Hill, in Cleveland County. In 1861 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry at Chesterville, S.C., by Elders Griffith and Hinton, and became a very acceptable and popular preacher. On the 22d January, 1863, he was united in marriage with Miss Julia Pipkins, of Goldsboro, N.C., by Elder N.B. Cobb. Elder Gold states "that a few years after this I was very much exercised about my own condition, and afterward became convinced that salvation is of the Lord Jesus, who is the righteousness of His people. I also was for years much exercised concerning the doctrine and practices of the Missionary Baptists, and becoming convinced that they did not hold the doctrine of God our Savior, and had also departed from the ancient landmarks in accepting so many institutions of men, my mind was irresistibly led to the Primitive Baptists. I united with them, and was baptized by Elder C.B. Hassell, at Kehukee church, Halifax county, N.C., on the 2d Sunday in March, 1870, since which time I have been with them, and, having obtained mercy of the Lord, I continue to this present."



Elder Pleasant Daniel Gold

In regard to Elder Gold's change of views we will make no remarks. We recognize him as a christian brother, and a good and useful man in the vineyard of the Lord. He is now editor of "Zion's Landmark," a semi-monthly, devoted to the Primitive cause, at Wilson, N.C. We wish him great success in his religious pilgrimage on earth, and a happy entrance upon a full fruition of permanent happiness in the eternal world above.

by John R. Logan

DR. THEODORE WHITFIELD

1834 - 1894

13th Pastor: September 1864 - April 1866

18th Pastor: March 1883 - January 1886

Dr. Theodore Whitfield was born in Hinds County, Mississippi, on January 31st, 1834. He came of North Carolina Baptist stock. His great-uncle, Lewis Whitfield, preached at pleasant Plains and was Moderator of the Kehukee Association in North Carolina for many years. His father, Benj. Whitfield, moved to Mississippi from North Carolina. Dr. Whitfield's mother was the granddaughter of Lemuel Hatch of Jones County, N.C., "a man of the highest social standing and a leader in the councils of the American Revolutionists." Her father, Benj. Hatch, moved from North Carolina to Alabama. It was from his mother that Dr. Whitfield inherited his aesthetic nature.

Dr. Whitfield returned to North Carolina for his college training, graduating at the University in 1854, third in his class. He returned to Mississippi expecting to be a planter like his father, but after two years decided to make his life worthwhile. He entered the ministry, taking his theological course at Newton, near Boston, where he graduated in 1858.

His first pastorate was at Danville, Ky., where he was ordained. He was pastor in Aberdeen, Miss., in 1861 and in 1863 he did work among the paroled prisoners at Demopolis, Ala. In 1864, he accepted call to Goldsboro, N.C. His wife was a great helper to him here during the trying times of the war, as well as through his life, and she "actually canvassed the Federal camps for money enough to buy a reed organ for the church."

He married Miss Annie E. Morehead, daughter of Hon. Jas. T. Morehead of Greensboro and niece of Gov. John M. Morehead, in 1859. He preached in Jackson and Meridian, Miss., and for one year taught at Mississippi College. In 1874 He accepted pastorate of Baptist Church at Charlotte, where he remained until 1882. Here a monumental work was done by him and his unusually talented wife. A new church was built. "Even then so strong was their inferiority complex, it was argued that Tryon Street was too prominent a street for a Baptist church and anyway they should 'wait till Tilden takes his seat'." It was during this pastorate that my wife's mother (Mrs. T.N. Ivey, nee Dowd), with her mother, Mrs. James C. Dowd, were baptized by Dr. Whitfield. In 1883, Dr. Whitfield became pastor of Goldsboro for a second time. Then in 1886 he became pastor at New Bern and remained until the fall of 1887, when he went to Richmond as pastor of Fulton church in that city, which was to be his last pastorate.

It will be of interest to our women to know that when the Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary of Southern Baptist Convention, was organized in 1888, that Mrs. Theo. Whitfield had the distinguished honor of presiding at the organization meeting. The last public meeting she attended was the Richmond Jubilate (W.M.U. 1914), where she was an honored guest speaking to the women then assembled, of some of her interesting reminiscences.

Dr. Whitfield died May 28, 1894, and his wife died November 12th, 1914.

Their daughter, Miss Emma Whitfield, a very talented woman, died in 1932. She was an outstanding artist, and among many of her pictures, she painted a

portrait of Miss Fannie Heck. The only surviving child is Mr. Geo. H. Whitfield of Richmond, to whom I am indebted for the facts concerning his brilliant father and at one time an active statesman in our beloved association.

Atlantic Baptist Association

Dr. Whitfield, while born in Mississippi, had many roots and connections in Wayne County. His father, Benjamin, was born in Wayne County near Seven Springs and was the second son of William Whitfield, II and his fourth wife, Sarah Bryan Hatch.

Dr. Whitfield as pastor of First Baptist in 1864 followed his kinsman Needham Bryan Cobb, who was pastor in 1862-1863.

His daughter, Emma Morehead Whitfield (1874-1932), besides being a very talented artist, was a writer of note and compiled the book of genealogy "Whitfield, Bryan, Smith". A grandson, Theodore Marshall Whitfield of Westminster, Md. edited and published the work in 1948.

Copy in Wayne County Public Library.

Charles S. Norwood
March 5, 1975



THEODORE WHITFIELD AND ANNIE MOREHEAD WHITFIELD
at the time of their marriage in 1859.

J. B. HARDWICKE

1830 -

14th Pastor: April 1866 - May 1868

Hardwicke, J.B., D.D., was born in Buckingham Co., Va., Aug. 9, 1830. At the age of twelve he made a profession of religion, and united with the Enon Baptist church. In 1852 he was ordained at the Enon church, in order that he might accept calls to two churches in Campbell Co., Va. He at once became prominent among the young preachers of the country. In 1853 he accepted a call to Greenfield, Va., where he remained for seven years. Here his special mission seems to have been to aid in rescuing the churches from the growing influence of anti-mission teachers. His next call was from Danville, which he declined, and after the call was repeated, he agreed to divide his time with them until they could secure a pastor. In 1860 he accepted a call to the Second church of Petersburg, and remained there until 1864. Now his time was divided between his church and the hospitals that were established in Petersburg during the war. His next field was Goldsborough, N.C., where he spent several years of successful labor. Dr. Hardwicke and Dr. Harper ordained Charles J. Nelson May 1, 1866. Hardwicke was Host Church Pastor to the State Convention, October 16-19, 1867. Afterwards he removed to Parkersburg, W. Va. here he commenced the publication of the *Baptist Record*, which he edited for five years. His efforts here aided in uniting the Baptists of West Virginia in their support of one general organization, and in harmonizing churches that had been rent asunder by the civil war. In 1873 the college of West Virginia conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. The year following he accepted a call to Atchison, Kansas. He served there for two years and nine months, was then called to Leavenworth, the largest city in the State. While in Kansas he was recording secretary, then president, and afterwards corresponding secretary of the State Convention. He was also a member of the board of directors, and a trustee of Ottawa University.

Source: Cathcart's BAPTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA

Baptist Historical Collection Wake Forest

REV. GEORGE W. SANDERLIN, D.D., LL D.

1843 - 1899

15th Pastor: April 1868 - March 1871

Also Sunday School Superintendent for same period

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Dr. Sanderlin, which occurred at Baltimore, Md., November 6, after a long and trying period of suffering.

George W. Sanderlin was born in Camden County in 1843. He was educated at Wake Forest College, from which he entered the army of the Confederacy, and served gallantly from 1861 in many battles to the end of the war, having received the commission of Captain in the service. Thereupon he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, graduating in 1867. He was active in the Sunday

School work in North Carolina during the year following; and in 1868 was ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. His first pastorate was at Goldsboro. Subsequently he became pastor of the Franklin Square Baptist Church, Baltimore, which he had to give up in 1876 on account of the precarious state of his health. A more retired life being advisable, he returned to Wayne County and followed agriculture, upon which subject his contributions to the press won extensive confidence and admiration. In 1888 he accepted the nomination of Auditor of the Commonwealth, and entered upon a political campaign, in which he distinguished himself as a popular leader and orator. He was elected and served as Auditor four years. In 1893 he became Fourth Auditor of the Treasury of the United States, which position he occupied until his physical powers were undermined by disease.



Rev. George W. Sanderlin

Courtesy Baptist Historical Collection

Such is the outline of a career unusually brilliant, remarkably many-sided. As a preacher he was so gifted that from the beginning it was plain that the foremost pulpits would be at his call; as a soldier no one ever served more bravely or faithfully; as a public man North Carolina has had few sons who achieved so brilliant a rise to popularity. But after all has been said, he was best loved by those who breathed the atmosphere of his personality. Genial, generous, guileless, tender, brilliant in conversation, courteous of manner, cultured in heart and mind; schooled in life's cares and joys, and ready of sympathy—he was so constituted that men who came within his reach were bound to his heart. So that the news of his death, even though disease has shut him away from his friends these many months, will roll a wave of sorrow across our State.

Of his invalid life we would fain speak a word. Bowed and bound by disease, his heart turned to heaven; and in the shadow of death he became the life of the sad, still home of the sick and weary. Influential in the day of vigor, it is a question if he were not stronger in the last years of seeming weakness.

His was a perplexed career. Affliction cut him off from his heart's calling. Public honor called him from retirement. And the shadow of disease fell again after a few years of brilliant success, no more to release him. Throughout all he did well. He was loyal to his church and his college, to his State, and to his convictions, and most of all to God. He rests; and it is well.

NOTE: Wife, Eliza Wooten, daughter of Council Wooten and Eliza Isler Wooten, Lenoir County.

Source: THE BIBLICAL RECORDER
November 15, 1899

COLUMBUS DURHAM
1844 - 1895
16th Pastor: August 1871 - January 1876

Elder Columbus Durham although never connected at any time with either the Broad River or King's Mountain Association was nevertheless reared within the bounds of the Kings Mountain body, and joined the church at High Shoals, one of the King's Mountain churches, we therefore, transfer to our work the sketch found in the Baptist Encyclopedia, by Dr. Cathcart, which we fully endorse.

Elder C. Durham was born in Rutherford county N.C. April 28th, 1844. His mother was the sister of ex-Gov. Baxter of Arkansas, and of Judge John Baxter of Tennessee. Mr. Durham was baptized in September, 1860; entered the army April in 1861; was wounded four times, though but a boy, was blessed in conducting prayer meetings in the army; was received by the Board of Education as a student at Wake Forest in 1867; graduated in 1871; was pastor at Goldsboro from August, 1871, to January, 1876, during which time the membership of the church more than doubled, an old debt was paid, and a pastor's study and parsonage were built;

settled in Durham in 1876, where, by his labors, the church has been greatly strengthened, a new and beautiful house of worship has been built, also a parsonage. Mr. Durham has preached in twenty-five counties in North Carolina and three in South Carolina, and has baptized over 800 persons. He is a trustee of Wake Forest College.

We take pleasure in adding that Elder Durham is among the most promising young ministers belonging to the Baptist denomination in the State.

Elder Columbus Durham moved on to other churches in the state. He became the General Secretary of the State Convention in 1888 and held that position until his death in 1895 - called the Great Columbus Durham. He returned to Goldsboro in 1880 and 1891 when our church was host to the State Convention.

Source: Church Minutes

Cathcart Baptist Encyclopedia



Rev. Columbus Durham

Courtesy Baptist Historical Collection

REV. FITZ HENRY IVEY

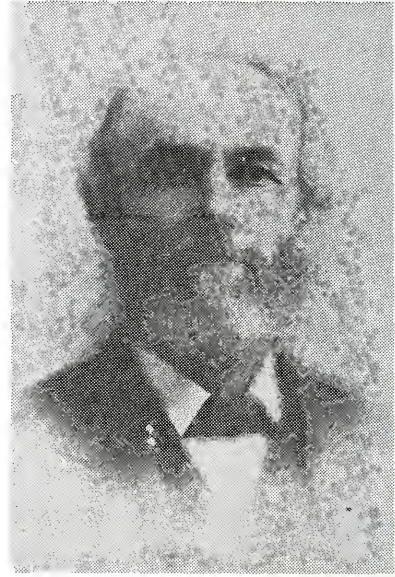
1831 - 1893

17th Pastor: February 1876 - January 1883

This useful man was born in Fayetteville, N.C., March 17, 1831. His parents, Fendal and Mary Ivey, were blessed with three children, Henry, ... and Ann. The latter was the mother of Rev. M.V. McDuffie, of New Brunswick, N.J.

Henry served for several years in the *Observer* office in Fayetteville under the late E.J. Hale, and there acquired that punctuality and precision which marked his character through life.

At twelve years of age he was baptized, together with some seventy others, by Dr. James McDaniel and connected himself with the Fayetteville church. It was his lot to preach the funeral of Dr. McDaniel. In 1854 he was licensed by the Fayetteville church, and at once entered upon a course of study at Wake Forest College, graduating as valedictorian of his class with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1860. In 1866 he took the degree of Master of Arts. Just after his graduation he entered the Seminary at Greenville, S.C., and in 1861 began teaching at Reddlesville, Ga. When the war drum was sounded and the battle flag unfurled, he raised a company of brave men and went to the front. He was soon made Chaplain of the Fifty-seventh Regiment North Carolina State Troops. In 1863 he was ordained at Fayetteville and became pastor of a church at Athens, Ga., serving for ten years. During 1873 and 1874 he was actively engaged as agent for his Alma Mater. In 1875 he went to Lexington, Ga., and in 1876 he came back to his native State serving the church at Goldsboro until 1883, when he returned to Lexington, Ga. For two years he was pastor at Elberton, Ga., two years at Greensboro, Ga., and for fourteen months previous to his death at Augusta, Ga.



Fitz Henry Ivey

In 1866 he was married to Miss Annie C. Cox, by whom he had two children, a son and daughter, the former dying while an infant.

A long and useful life was closed in Augusta, Ga., May 5, 1893. Nearly fifty years a Christian, nearly forty years a minister.

His remains were brought to Fayetteville and interred in the Old Cemetery, Dr. Skinner, of Raleigh, conducting the funeral exercises from the Baptist church, assisted by Rev. F.H. Jones, of Chatham, Va.

Source: N. C. Baptist Almanac 1894

DR. THEODORE WHITFIELD

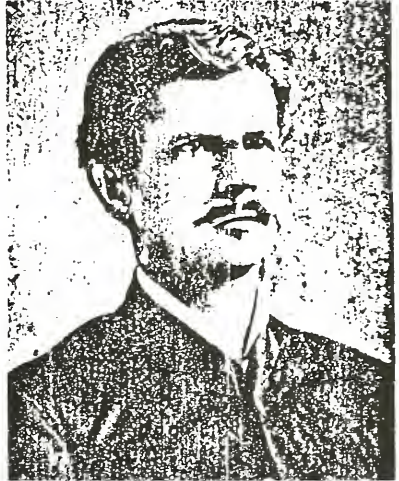
1834 - 1894

13th Pastor: September 1864 - April 1866

18th Pastor: March 1883 - January 1886

I had an engagement at College. But my father sternly forbade my marriage until I should be 21 years old. This I felt he had a right to do, . . . I returned home to wait the time. Alas! how evanescent are the loves of College boys. We exchanged letters only once. Then I heard no more of the young lady, until after her marriage.

Theodore Whitfield did not go home immediately, for in 1854 he was graduated with third honor. He returned to Mississippi with his head filled with hopes of combining the practice of law with the management of a large plantation. Before long these were forsaken and he entered the Newton Theological Institution, Newton Center, Mass. It was not unnatural that his views concerning slavery underwent change during his sojourn in the state of Garrison, Beecher, and Channing. Henceforth he questioned the moral right of slavery. In 1858 he completed his work in the Institution and sought a pastorate. Concerning his trip home he wrote:



Dr. Theodore Whitfield

I stopped at Greensboro, N.C., to visit my friend . . . [and] college classmate, Mr. Robert M. Sloan. There I met Miss Annie E. Morehead, daughter of Hon. James Turner Morehead. I was charmed with her gentle spirit, her affable manners, . . . [and] her extraordinary conversational talents. On reaching home, I soon felt I must return to North Carolina . . . [to] see again the most attractive young lady whom I had ever seen.

Theodore Whitfield and Annie Morehead were married November 11, 1859.

In 1859, too, Theodore began his ministry in Danville, Dey. Following resignation from this charge, the young preacher returned to spend 1860 in his father's home—Magnolia—"the dearest spot this earth has ever had for me." After a visit to Greensboro, N.C., Theodore Whitfield moved to Aberdeen, Miss., where he became pastor of the Baptist Church and ministered to both the whites and negroes of the community. War was shortly upon them. With Grant's army besieging Vicksburg, Miss., Theodore and his wife attempted to lead to North Carolina and her father's home some of their slaves and stock. In Greensboro, Theodore became pastor of a struggling church and like others gave of his time to sick and needy soldiers about the town. He also served the Confederacy for a time in the Quartermaster's Department. In 1864 he moved to Goldsboro, N.C., to supply the Baptist Church and to serve in the hospitals the sick and wounded of both armies until he was stricken with camp fever.

The mind of Theodore Whitfield was at this time perhaps as much unsettled as his country. He gave up the church in Goldsboro, returned to Mississippi, took a house in Jackson, declined a church in Alabama, worked a little on a paper and got along as best he could without any permanent work. For a time he turned against the ministry, but with the beginning of 1869 he accepted the offer of the First Baptist Church in Meridian, Miss., where he remained until the fall of 1872 when he joined the faculty of Mississippi College. After a year teaching languages Theodore Whitfield gave this up and undertook, 1873, the superintendency of the state institution for the blind at Jackson, Miss. This year he remembered as one of the most pleasant periods of his life, but with the shake-up following the election of Gen. Ames to be governor a new superintendent was chosen and Theodore Whitfield was without a job.

A few weeks later, 1874, Theodore Whitfield returned to the ministry, this time in Charlotte, N.C. In 1878 Wake Forest College, N.C., conferred upon him the degree of doctor of divinity. Succeeding years found Dr. Whitfield occupying pastorates near Spartanburg, S.C., in Goldsboro, New Bern, N.C., and Richmond, Va.

Dr. Whitfield was a most ardent friend of missions and at one time served as Vice-President for North Carolina on the Foreign Mission Board, of the Southern Baptist Convention.

His death, May 28, 1894, was the occasion for an outpouring of witness by those who knew him, testifying both to his worth to his community and church and to the love they bore him.

THOMAS DIXON, JR.

1864 - 1946

19th Pastor: October 1886 - May 1887

Thomas Dixon, Jr. was born in a small farm house in Cleveland County on the outskirts of Shelby, N.C. in 1864. His father was a Baptist preacher and his mother was a Miss McAfee from South Carolina.

Thomas Dixon entered Wake Forest at the young age of 15 and graduated in 1883 with the highest honors, capturing all of the medals available particularly in the area of speech. He was already being recognized as a genius, having ability to speak on most any subject.

His first venture into business was to hang out his shingle for the practice of law. He had won a seat in the North Carolina General Assembly before he was even of age to vote. Eager to be speaking before the people, he abandoned his lawyer's career and was called to be the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro in 1886. He had married the year before Miss Harriett Bussey of Columbus, Georgia.

Thomas Dixon was a restless person. He moved from Goldsboro to Raleigh and then to Boston and then to New York City,



Thomas Dixon, Jr.

all within a three year period. While in New York he was enormously popular and drew crowds exceeding the capacity of the churches. John D. Rockefeller offered to build a large auditorium that would hold thousands of people, but this never developed as Dixon began receiving demands for lecturing on many subjects, including politics and racial problems throughout the South with which he was well acquainted. His mother had inherited more than 100 slaves and he knew the problems first hand.

In early 1900 Dixon turned to writing and wrote 22 novels and 9 plays, most of which dealt with the problems of the South and slavery. His book entitled **THE CLANSMAN** was so popular that it was made into a moving picture entitled "The Birth of a Nation", from which Dixon received a fortune. He moved to Hollywood and formed his own company and started other pictures based on his other novels, none of which were successes so he lost most of his fortune in this venture. He returned to North Carolina and attempted a real estate development in the mountains of North Carolina which he called "Little Switzerland". This too was a failure and he was soon a broken man and was happy to accept an appointment as Clerk of the Federal Court for Eastern North Carolina, which was offered him by Judge Isaac Meekins, a former classmate at Wake Forest.

Dixon's first wife having died earlier, he married a second time in 1939 to Madelyn Donovan who had played one of the leads in his picture "The Mark of the Beast". Thomas Dixon died in Raleigh on April 2, 1946. His body was returned to Cleveland County by Lee B. Weathers, publisher of the *Shelby Star* and was buried in the Sunset Cemetery, Shelby, N.C.

Dixon's father and two older brothers were both Baptist preachers and a sister, Dr. Delia Dixon-Carroll, a professor at Meredith College for many years. I do not find any record of Thomas Dixon Jr. being an ordained minister although he was a brilliant student at Wake Forest, won a scholarship to Johns Hopkins University where he met Woodrow Wilson and became interested in politics and civic welfare. In New York he developed a close friendship with Theodore Roosevelt and his family. He was a charmer with his eloquent speech. He was not a Reverend. He left the church in 1897.

Source: Charlotte Observer, May 1934

Dr. H.G. Jones, UNC

Charles S. Norwood

1970

J. S. DILL 20th Pastor: 1888 - 1891



A HAPPY NEW YEAR

"So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ."

J. S. DILL,

PASTOR OF BAPTIST CHURCH

Goldsboro, January 1, 1890.

"ROLL CALL" SERVICE AT THE CHURCH, 11 A. M., JAN 5th.

JESSEE HARTWELL EDWARDS

1853 - 1915

21st Pastor: 1891 - 1893

Jesse Hartwell Edwards was born April 4, 1853, in Society Hill, S.C. His parents were Robert George Edwards and Ellen Hartwell Edwards. He was named for his uncle, Dr. Jesse Boardman Hartwell, who was missionary to China for many years. He was directly descended from Phillip James, the first pastor of the old Welsh Neck Church, and Joshua Edwards, the third pastor of the same church.

Young Hartwell spent his childhood and early youth years in the little village where he was born, experiencing during those years the tense prewar years, the War Between The States, and Reconstruction.

He attended Columbian University (now George Washington University) in Washington, D.C., from which he was graduated with honor in 1873. For two years he taught Latin and Greek at his Alma Mater. Feeling a strong call to become a minister, he entered the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Greenville, S.C., in 1875, and moved with the school to Louisville, Kentucky. He completed his course there in 1878.

Mr. Edwards first pastorate was in Rock Hill, S.C. His next field was Oxford, Mississippi. While there he was married to Kate McIver Watson, daughter of Col. and Mrs. R.B. Watson of Ridge Spring, S.C. From Oxford he went to Cheraw, S.C., and there to Goldsboro, N.C. His next pastorate was in Fayetteville, N.C. While there he was persuaded to spend many months raising funds for Meredith College in Raleigh. This task completed, he accepted a call to Blacksburg, Virginia. The church felt that a man of his educational advantages would be a suitable one to work with the young college students at V.P.I. He spent almost a year in Maryland doing mission work. Then he returned to his native state, serving churches in Ridge Spring, North, and Brunson.

He suffered a heart attack while visiting his daughter, Lucy Edwards Wade, in Morehead City, N.C., and died July 6, 1915

Dr. R.W. Sanders said of him:

"Brother Edwards was highly endowed intellectually, the best blood flowed in his veins, he was of studious turn and habits of mind, was a thorough scholar in his attainments, and withal, a high toned, pure minded Christian gentleman."

Jesse Hartwell Edwards is buried in Morehead City, N.C., in the cemetery on 22nd Street, according to nephew Frank Remsburg of Goldsboro, N.C.

Jesse Hartwell Edwards was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C., 1891-1893.

Information by: Lucy Edwards Wade
and Charles S. Norwood

C. A. JENKENS

1850 - 1927

22nd Pastor: September 1893 - May 1895

1900 - 1903

C.A. Jenkins was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi, in 1850. Soon after the Civil War he went to the University of Virginia and remained there until he had completed his education.

He married Lillie Shepherd Cocke in 1873, and after teaching in Virginia a year, became convinced that Baptists' doctrines were right, and left the Episcopal Church in which he had been reared and became not only a Baptist, but a Baptist preacher. His first charge was a small North Carolina church, his first pastorates being in Franklinton, Warsaw and Louisburg.

He owed for his education, and published "Baptist Doctrines," his first book, during the first pastorate. The book yielded him exactly enough to pay the debt.

This man of God, like Elijah, was a man of prayer, and there were many crises in his life when he brought down fire on Carmel by prayer. He was true to his convictions and uncompromising with principle. He believed in a very personal God, and the Bible from cover to cover. he was especially gifted in public prayer, and was often called upon by civic organizations for this service. His interpretation of the Scriptures was always given after careful study, and his preaching attracted old and young alike.



C. A. Jenkins

Other pastorates followed: Oxford, New Bern, Oxford again, Goldsboro, New Brunswick, New Jersey, Goldsboro again, Chapel Hill, Spray, Shelby, Mount Moriah, Garner, Wendell and Zebulon.

During these active years he wrote: "Pot Hooks," "What Made Me a Baptist," "The Bride's Return," and "Good Gumption." His last work, "Christ at the Phone," was published a short time before his death, which occurred at the age of seventy-seven on February 8th, 1927, at his home in Clayton.

His many friends here in Raleigh were shocked to hear of the death of Rev. C.A. Jenkins, which occurred at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. He was buried at Clayton, the funeral services being conducted in the Baptist church by the pastor, Rev. Ira E.D. Andrews, assisted by Rev. O.L. Stringfield, a life-long friend of Brother Jenkins.

For several years Brother Jenkins had been in feeble health and had not been able to attend our general denominational meetings. When in the active ministry

he was a regular attendant upon the meetings of the Convention and took an active part in its proceedings.

Brother Jenkins was a finished scholar, an able preacher, a gifted writer, a man of deep convictions and thoroughly consecrated to the work of the Lord. He was loyal to the Bible, upon whose truths his soul feasted daily.

On April 9th, 1923, his wife died at the age of 68.

There were eight children born of this union; only three are living. They are: Rev. Carter A. Jenkins of Louisville, Kentucky, who at an early age became a minister; Mrs. Harry Hobson of Hampton, Virginia; and Mrs. D.J. Thurston of Clayton, North Carolina. (These facts were furnished by Brother Jenkins' daughter, Mrs. Thurston.)

Daughter Stella married J.J. Robinson of Goldsboro - two daughters, Louise and Margaret (Sears), 311 S. John St., Goldsboro, N.C.

Source: Cathcart's BAPTIST ENCYCLOPEDIA
and Charles S. Norwood.

JAMES LONG

23rd Pastor: 1895 - 1899

Bro. James Long was from Unionville, N.C. He was pastor during the last three years of Charles J. Nelson's life. He was the pastor to celebrate Nelson's long service to the church at a special event in 1895. Program can be read in Nelson's biography in this book.

by Charles S. Norwood

Source: Church Minutes



Mr. and Mrs. James Long 1895-1899

ELDER WILLIAM CARY NEWTON, D.D.

1873 - 1965

24th Pastor: 1895 for 3 Months

26th Pastor: 1898 - 1901

William Carey Newton was born October 6, 1873, the son of Rev. Columbus C. Newton and Carnelia Herring Newton.

Newton received his B.A. degree from Wake Forest in 1891. He also received his D.D. degree from Wake Forest. He was ordained in Wake Forest in 1893. He attended Rochester Theological Seminary from 1893 to 1897.

Newton was married in 1898 in Geneva, New York, to Mary Louise Woodcock. She was born August 17, 1876. Her parents were Philip R. Woodcock and Ruby Pearce Woodcock.

Newton was first pastor at the Alexander Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, N.Y., 1898-1899. His second pastorate was at the First Baptist Church in Goldsboro, N.C., 1899-1901, and his third pastorate was at the First Church in Greensboro, N.C., 1901-1903.

On October 6, 1902, Rev. Newton was appointed missionary to China. He sailed January 10, 1903, for Tengchow Shantung. He remained at this post until 1908 as a pastor. He then moved to Bush Theological Seminary, Hwanghsien, China, where he taught in the Seminary from 1908 to 1924. He became dean of the institution. From 1924 to 1926, Dr. Newton did evangelistic work in China.

Dr. Newton's latter years were spent in Ginter Park, Richmond, Virginia where he died in 1965 at the age of ninety-two



Rev. William Carey Newton



Mrs. Wm. C. Newton

WILLIAM FRANCIS FRY, SR. D.D.

1868 - 1941

26th Pastor: 1903 - 1908

Dr. Fry was born the son of Thomas N. Fry and Lydia Frances Seawell in Carthage North Carolina on March 3, 1868. His mother died as a result of childbirth on the day of Mr. Fry's birth and left the baby to be cared for by his grandparents, Absolom Fry and his wife. The care of the baby fell mostly to Absolom's daughter, Fannie, who was only eight years older than he. Thomas Fry remarried to Betty Williams, and after her death to Martha McDonald.

William went to school in a one-room log schoolhouse which had one door, one fireplace, and one window.

There were college days later. He went to Wake Forest College and also to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Kentucky. (Dr. Fry has jokingly said that it took him two centuries to get a college degree, his M.A. from Wake Forest, his B.A. in 1899 and then his M.A. in 1900).

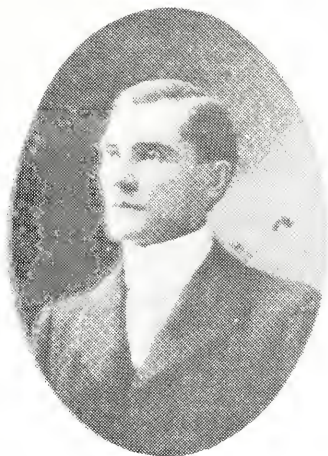
After his graduation, the field of teaching and pastorate were both open to him. He chose the pastorate and went immediately to assume care of the First Baptist Church in the city of Goldsboro, in his native state. He met and married soon after Miss Lucy Jones Wyatt on June 12, 1902 in Raleigh, North Carolina. To this union, at Carthage, North Carolina, Elisabeth Seawell Fry was born, September 4, 1903. Ruth Jerman Fry was born, January 27, 1906, shortly after Dr. Fry had assumed the pastorate of the First Baptist Church at Goldsboro, N.C. William Francis Fry, Jr. made his appearance on October 4, 1907 at Goldsboro, North Carolina too.

In late November, 1907, Dr. Fry and his little family made the long journey to Texas to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church at Wichita Falls, Texas. Dr. Fry remained in Wichita Falls, Texas as pastor of this church only two short years as he was offered a great challenge to accept a position as head of the Bible and Greek Department in the Baptist Simmons College (now Hardin-Simmons University) at Abilene, Texas. Dr. Fry held this position for the next twenty-six years.

Four more children were born at Abilene, Texas: Spilman Wyatt Fry, November 8, 1909; died March 11, 1936, Houston, Texas; John Klipstein Fry, March 7, 1912 - died same day; Mary Phillips Fry Schulz, May 2, 1913; Cornelia Klipstein Fry Sowell, June 28, 1916.

His next move was to Lubbock, Texas to head the Chair of Biblical Literature at the newly established Texas Technological College there. It was here that Dr. Fry passed away on May 1, 1941 and was buried in San Antonio.

Ruth Jerman, their daughter, has become a gifted writer and has written two volumes on the life of Dr. Fry and his family and has donated them to the church library in memory of her father. The title is "Oh, That Reminds Me." The books are published by her son-in-law William F. Hamlet of Houston, Texas. Ruth Jerman is married to Ben Schmidt and they reside in Baltimore, Maryland.



My father, William Francis Fry (about 1900).



My mother, Lucy Jones Wyatt Fry (about 1900).

The above two pictures courtesy of Ruth Jerman Fry from her book "Oh, That Reminds Me".

In the summer of 1980 the church had a rare visit in Ruth Jerman Fry Schmidt and her brother, William F. Fry, Jr. They were both born in Goldsboro in 1906-07, being children of Dr. and Mrs. W.F. Fry. Dr. Fry, age 26, was pastor of our church from 1904-1907. This was their first visit in 72 years. They did not remember Goldsboro and were anxious to see the church and town in which they were born while their father was pastor here. In remembrance of their visit they started a copy machine fund with a gift of \$200.00. W.F. Fry, Jr. lives in California and his sister, Ruth Jerman Fry Schmidt, has lived in Baltimore for the past 45 years. Her husband, Ben Schmidt, is an artist and creator of jewelry.

Through an exchange of letter, we have received pictures, cards, and a book written by Mrs. Ruth Jerman Fry Schmidt entitled OH THAT REMINDS ME. I have read the book from cover to cover and find it very interesting and informative as to the life history of Dr. and Mrs. Fry as well as a history of her own life. It was sent to me to read with a request that it be placed in the library of the church for others to enjoy and learn of Dr. Fry's family.

Charles S. Norwood
Past Church Historian

GEORGE THOMAS WATKINS

1864 - 1932

27th Pastor: 1908 - 1922

George Thomas Watkins was born May 22, 1864, the son of John Alexander Watkins and Margaret Reid Watkins. He was born in Person County, North Carolina.

He was educated at Horners High School, Wake Forest College and the Southern Baptist Seminary. he was ordained at Flat River Association Enon Church, 1889.

He was married in Person County, September 3, 1890, to Nannie Lois Merritt, who was born March 31, 1867, the daughter of Dr. William Merritt and Mary Catherine Hamlett Merritt of Roxboro, North Carolina.

After graduation Rev. Watkins was first pastor of a Baptist Church in Clarksville, Virginia. Then he moved to Roxboro, North Carolina, where most of his children were born. His third pastorate was at the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro from 1908-1922. Soon after his arrival in Goldsboro, a movement was started that resulted in the building of a new brick church, the present edifice. On completion of the church in 1912, the church was host to the State Baptist Convention. Rev. Watkins, while pastor in Goldsboro, was host preacher to the Convention. He was also Convention preacher of Session in 1909. He was later a trustee of Wake Forest College and also trustee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In 1922, Rev. Watkins accepted a call to Grace Baptist Church of Durham, North Carolina. He continued at this post until his retirement. The Biblical Recorder announced his death on November 9, 1932, at the age of sixty-eight.

Rev. and Mrs. Watkins had five children as follows:

Dr. George T. Watkins, Jr.

Basil M. Watkins, Attorney of Durham, N.C.

Louise T. Watkins, teacher of mathematics in high school, Durham, N.C.

Inez C. Watkins, teacher of English in Durham High School

Dr. William M. Watkins of Durham, N.C.

Charity Watkins, a faithful household servant of the family, was the only Negro member of the First Baptist Church during the years Rev. Watkins was pastor. Earlier Negro members of the church had pulled out in 1867 and founded their own church.



George Thomas Watkins

The church did not own a parsonage from 1910 to 1925, the parsonage site being used for the new church. Rev. Watkins lived for a number of years at 307 S. John Street and then in the old Steve Isler home on E. Walnut Street

Charles S. Norwood, 1971



This 1912 picture shows the Board of Deacons of First Baptist Church. First row, left to right: Chairman J.E. Peterson, Pastor George T. Watkins, W.G. Britt. Second row: John Whitley, E.L. Edmundson, Robert Pipkin, H.L. Graham, H.B. Parker, J.D. Rivenbark.

This was the pastor and his Deacons who planned and built the second church in 1912, the present church, more than twice the size of the first small frame building.

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

On Saturday evening, October 8, 1932, Dr. George T. Watkins was translated from that which was mortal to that which is immortal. To him this was but another triumph of glory. In a long and continued victorious life his long and intimate journey with Jesus was simply culminated upon his reaching home.

Therefore, we, the Baptist Ministers' Association of Durham, North Carolina, gathered at the First Baptist Church, of Durham, October 24, 1932, express our gratitude to God for the life and fellowship of our departed co-worker. He was a comrade of the Cross, a Christian companion of cultured qualities rarely found among us. His counsel was clear and conscientious upon all matters pertaining to the things of the Kingdom of God. Indeed, we have lost a true yokefellow, but heaven has crowned a victor from many a battlefield of renown and glory.

BIBLICAL RECORDER

DR. ZENO WALL
1882 - 1967
28th Pastor: 1922 - 1925

Born August 20, 1882 near Mooresboro, N.C., he was a son of Mr. and Mrs. S.F. Wall. He was educated in the Rutherford County schools and also attended a private school operated by A.B. Flack. Furthering his education, he went to Mars Hill College and was graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Upon completion of his education in Rutherford County, he set out on a business career with a textile firm in Cliffside and while there received and accepted an invitation to speak in the nearby Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, an experience which confirmed in his heart his call to preach.

His pastorates included Marshall, N.C.; Mount Olive, Miss.; First Baptist Church, Columbia, Miss.; Mississippi Baptist College from which he entered the Military Chaplaincy in 1916; First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, N.C.; First Baptist Church, Shelby, N.C.; and later in his golden years, Elizabeth Baptist Church near Shelby.



Dr. Zeno Wall

In 1948, already serving as president of the board of trustees of the North Carolina Baptist Children's homes, he was invited to become general superintendent, serving in this capacity until 1950.

When he reached retirement age, he returned to Shelby but shortly thereafter received a plea to become pastor of Elizabeth Baptist Church, holding this pastorate for five years and again showing his strength in the ministry.

Many honors came to him during his fruitful ministry. He was president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention for four terms—1933-1936 and his name appeared in "Who's Who In America" in the 1948-49 edition. He authored three "books of merit" which were published by the Broadman Press of the Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn., and which have had wide circulation. They are: "Heartening Messages"; "Verities of the Gospel" and "A Day for God-Called men."

In his ministry which covered fifty-six years, Dr. Wall preached in hundreds of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

He served as president of Gardner-Webb College (then Boiling Springs Junior College) for two years, without pay, during the trying times of the depression while he was pastoring First Baptist Church, Shelby.

Elected Pastor Emeritus on September 16, 1951, he continued in that post until his death.

Dr. Wall married Ada Katherine Ramsey who died March 11, 1959 and to them five children were born: Zeno, Jr., Abbie Jane (Mrs. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain, Yates, Woodrow and Ada Ramsey (Mrs. Walter Fanning of Ridgewood, N.J.)

Dr. Wall died September 12, 1967 and was buried beside his wife in Elizabeth Baptist Church cemetery.

Source: Woodrow Wall, Minister of Music and Education
First Baptist Church, Newnan, Georgia

C. V. BROOKS

1869 - 1938

29th Pastor: 1925 - 1926

This godly man was born in Jonesboro, Moore County, North Carolina, April 10, 1869. He was the third of twelve children. He was reared in a pure and happy home, and inherited from his pious parents a love of purity and uprightness.

Education: Studied in Jonesboro and Carthage High Schools, Wake Forest College, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Family: Married Miss Blanche Liles, of Jonesboro. To them have been born three boys and four girls. His wife attended lectures with him in the Seminary, and she is a tower of strength to him in his ministerial work.

Religion: He was converted at the age of eleven and baptized into the fellowship of the Jonesboro Baptist Church of the Sandy Creek Association, of which he was afterwards Clerk.

Life Work: He was licensed to preach and called to the pastorate of his home church, where he began his ministry in August, 1890. He preached his first sermon in Juniper Springs Church, near his father's home, from Luke 9:23. For several years he taught school and served country churches.

In 1906 he became pastor of Tarboro Church in the Tar River Association, where he remained two years. In 1918 he accepted a call to Red Springs, and moved to that town. He began his ministry there with 2 Cor. 5:14 as his first text and 1 Cor. 2:2 as his policy. There were some serious difficulties in the church which have been overcome, the discipline is positive and the fellowship delightful. Consideration for the pastor is one of the marked characteristics of this church.

Brother Brooks is diligently engaged in the Master's business, and at the same time looking and praying for the coming of the King.

Source: Taylors Tar River History



Rev. Charles Vance Brooks

Courtesy Baptist Historical Collection

REVEREND ALFRED JAMES SMITH

1889 - 1950

30th Pastor: 1926 - 1950

Rev. Alfred James Smith was born May 21, 1889, in Kansas City, Missouri, the son of Henry and Elizabeth Lloyd Smith. Henry Smith was a native of Hampshire, England, while Elizabeth Lloyd was born in Xenia, Ohio.

Alfred Smith was educated in Kansas City schools and at William Jewel College, Liberty, Missouri, where he played varsity football. He worked with the Juvenile Court of Kansas City and for a while was Assistant Superintendent of Boys Hotel, an attempt of the County to salvage delinquent boys from the streets of Kansas City. He was a graduate of Northern Baptist Seminary in Kansas City. The Seminary later moved to Denver, Colorado.

Rev. Smith was first pastor at Higginsville, Missouri, for eight years, then for four and a half years he was pastor of a Baptist church in Franklin, North Carolina. He was called to the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro in May, 1926.

He was married to MaBelle Shafer on December 25, 1913. She was the daughter of Luther J. Shafer and Anne Anthony Shafer. She was born in Buckner, Missouri. Their family consisted of three girls: Elizabeth, Helen and Mary Jane, all born in Higginsville, Missouri.

In coming to Goldsboro, Rev. Smith followed the ministry of Dr. Zeno Wall, who had served the church from June, 1922 to October 1925. Rev. Smith was given an enthusiastic reception. Many changes and developments were to take place during his twenty-four years of service. Our first written "Plan of Work" was adopted. A great city-wide religious census was taken. Mr. Smith was responsible for the church adopting for the first time the Unified Budget System. Our first Sunday School enlargement campaign was held shortly after Mr. Smith's arrival, and the Sunday School reached a new height in number and enthusiasm. Many plans and ideas were examined for providing more room for the ever increasing enrollment. Mr. Smith is credited with the idea of purchasing the present Education Building which was at that time an office building. Today, after extensive renovations, it is the very fine Education Building of the First Baptist Church and named the Alfred J. Smith Education Building in his honor.

Mr. Smith was very interested in music. He introduced the first professional music director in our church. He became active in community choral organizations and then state-wide musical programs for trained song leaders. He served as vice president in the State organization. This led to his becoming president of our local Community Concert Association, a position he held for many years.



Reverend Alfred James Smith

Mr. Smith claimed friends from all walks of life and all races and ages. He spent many hours at homes and hospitals with the sick and desolate, both within and without his church. He was really a friend of mankind. In a free open poll conducted by the Goldsboro News-Argus, he was voted the number one citizen of Goldsboro. His concern for hungry school children during the depression opened up the Church Kitchen, which was later tabbed the Soup Kitchen. Military men learned to love him during their brief stay at Seymour Johnson Base. His counsel and prayers were sought by many of the young men in uniform who felt that they were alone and ignored.

Mr. Smith loved the out of doors, especially the seacoast, where he maintained a home for quiet recreation. He loved to provide all his needs from catching the fish and other seafood, to the elaborate cooking and serving a tasty meal, which he was quite capable of doing. He enjoyed the people of the seacoast and countryside and would listen to their tall tales and then do them one better by relating one of his own stories.

Twenty-one years have passed since his death, but he is unforgettable in the minds and hearts of many people.

Charles S. Norwood
1971

On May 6, 1950, the News-Argus paid editorial tribute to Mr. Smith, on the occasion of his 24th year in Goldsboro.

Those remarks are here repeated:

The first Sunday in May, 1926 a young man preached his first sermon as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Goldsboro.

He was Rev. A.J. Smith. With his wife and three daughters, he had arrived a few days previously from the mountain town of Franklin.

On Sunday, Rev. A.J. Smith will pass his 24th anniversary as pastor of the church.

To Al Smith Sunday will be just another day of serving his church and his people. But to the members of the church and to hundreds in the community it will be a day of deep significance.

Mr. Smith has given broad, deep and devoted service to his own church people and to the community. He is a man of breadth, depth and tolerance. Inside and outside his church he has touched thousands of people and always for the good.

The Baptist pastor is a buoyant and laughing spirit. To have converse with him is to feel a new courage and a new faith that God is in his heaven and all is right with the world. In his comforting of the sick, cheering the bereaved, lending a helping and strengthening hand to the weak and distressed, Mr. Smith truly has shown others the untouchable treasure of power that belongs to the man of faith.

And he has none of the smugness, none of the pontificating, holier than-thou attitude that sometimes digs a ditch between the cloth and the man of the street.

We join with hundreds in wishing Mr. Smith and his family all good wishes upon their 24th anniversary in Goldsboro.

OFFICERS OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Alfred J. Smith, Pastor, 1940

Financial Secretary	Mrs. Ruby D. Little
Sunday School Superintendent	Mr. M.A. Shaver
B.T.U. Director	Mrs. A.R. Mallard
W.M.U. President	Mrs. J. Andrew Smith
Treasurer	Mrs. J. Andrew Smith
Budget Secretary	Mr. H.L. Graham
Clerk	Mrs. E.C. Futrelle
Chairman of the Building Fund	Mr. R.M. Purser
Chairman of the Building Fund Club	Mr. Edgar H. Bain
Organist	Mrs. Scott B. Berkeley

FINANCE COMMITTEE

R.M. Purser, Chairman	G.A. Norwood	Jesse Hinson
H.L. Graham	B.F. Carr	H.G. Maxwell, Sr.
Charles S. Norwood	J.R. Crawford, Sr.	Guion Lee

TRUSTEES

Charles Norwood	H.B. Parker
H.V. Modlin	G.A. Norwood

DEACONS

S.O. Montague	Jesse Hinson	J.F. McInnis
H.V. Modlin	Eugene Roberts	Carroll Bryan (Chairman)
Wayne F. Smith	A.V. Washburn	R.M. Purser
G.W. Waters, Sr.	W.M. Smith (Life Dea.)	D.H. Bland
D.L. Cuthrell	D.D. Montague	Chas. Norwood
Edgar H. Bain	B.F. Carr	J.A. Sherard
W.M. Smith	Francis Stanley	H.B. Parker (Life Dea.)
	Julian T. Gaskill	

OFFICERS OF W.M.U. FOR 1940

President	Mrs. J. Andrew Smith	Recording Secretary	Mrs. A.A. Loftin
Vice-President	Mrs. W. Edward Brown	Mission Treasurer	Mrs. A.V. Washburn
Sec. Vice-President	Mrs. John R. Crawford	Publicity	Mrs. Henry Belk
Third Vice-President	Mrs. S.D. Poole	Personal Service	Mrs. W.C. Suggs

CIRCLE LEADERS

Circle No. 1	Mrs. George Steele	Circle No. 6	Mrs. Ed Herring
Circle No. 2	Mrs. J.A. Sherard	Circle No. 7	Mrs. Paul Edmundson
Circle No. 3	Mrs. Luther Denning	Circle No. 8	Mrs. Henry Brown
Circle No. 4	Mrs. A.K. Robertson	Circle No. 9	Mrs. W.R. Crow
Circle No. 5	Mrs. Loren Pate	Circle No. 10	Mrs. A.J. Smith
Sunbeam Leader	Mrs. George Casteen	Junior G.A. Leader	Mrs. R.B. Harper
Assistant	Mrs. J.H. Askins	Intermediate G.A. Leaders	
Royal Ambassadors	Mrs. Doren James		Mrs. Frank Seymour, Mrs. J.M. Byrd
Assistant	Mrs. George Ham	Y.W.A. Counselor	Miss Ruby Barrett

REV. GILMER H. CROSS

1911 - 1969

31st Pastor: January, 1951 - June, 1969

Gilmer Henry Cross was born May 10, 1911 in Lexington, North Carolina, the son of Thomas Stokes and Mary Elizabeth Feezor Cross. Following his education in Lexington, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College and his Master of Theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Nurtured in a Christian home, he accepted Christ when he was nine years old. His decision to become a Gospel minister came while he was in college. He had felt this call while he was in the fifth grade, but his interest in athletics and a career in law had pushed it to the background. While home on summer vacation after his sophomore year, the struggle grew until ten days before he was to return to campus to begin football practice he realized the decision must be made. On his knees he prayed for an unmistakable sign: if God wanted him to go into the Ministry, let him be asked to preach at his home church before the ten days expired. And before the time was up, his pastor, who knew nothing of what had transpired, called to ask him to preach. The decision was made. His home church, First Baptist Church of Lexington, N.C., licensed him to preach when he was twenty years old and ordained him at the age of twenty-two.



Rev. Gilmer H. Cross

He served four churches in two states during his ministry. Finishing the Seminary in 1936, he became the first full-time pastor of First Baptist Church of Scarbro, West Virginia. He served as pastor of Beck's Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N.C. from 1938 until 1943, when he returned to West Virginia to become pastor of Oak Hill Baptist Church. On January 1, 1951, he began his ministry as pastor of First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, N.C., which continued until his death on June 16, 1969. Steady progress in spiritual growth, financial stewardship, and physical improvement marked each of these pastorates.

Many opportunities for service came to him. During his years in West Virginia he was a member of the Pastors' Advisory Committee on Publications of the American Baptist Convention and a member of the Board of Managers of the Home Mission Board of the American Baptist Convention; was president of the State Ministers' Council, a member of the Executive Board of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and served as president of the West Virginia Baptist Convention. In North Carolina he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Campbell College for one term of four years and was serving his second term on the Board of Trustees of Wake Forest University at the time of his death. He served as a member of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for two terms and had been a member of the Committee on Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was a member of the first Committee on Orientation of Trustees of North Carolina Baptist Institutions and Agencies, served as chairman one year, and was a member for a second time at the time of his death. While a member of the General Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, he was on the State Budget Committee and the Fruitland Bible Institute Committee and was chairman of the State Missions Committee. In January, 1967, he was elected president of the General Board and chairman of the Board's Executive Committee, serving two years.

In 1969 he was invited by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Philippine Baptist Convention to be a member of the Evangelistic Crusade Team. With the cooperation of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro, he accepted the invitation and participated in the Crusade, preaching for four weeks in the Philippines. On his way home he visited mission fields in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan. After this experience, he said that one could never be the same.

Dear to his heart were his family and home. He and his wife, Bernice, had one daughter (Elizabeth Ann), Mrs. Charles Hellard of Salisbury, North Carolina. The two grandchildren brought him much joy. So in keeping with his deep concern and interest for young people, for missions and missionary development, and his love for his own family, he had taken his daughter to North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Southport, where she was to be on the faculty for World Missions Week. It was there where he led conferences and spoken many times that death came suddenly.

His deep interest in athletics and law which had been present in his early life continued. He was a familiar sight in the courtroom and in the stadium or wherever an athletic event was taking place. But the passion of his life was people and especially lost people, and his aim in life to glorify God. In his own words he was "a man saved by the grace of God, trying to live a Christian life, the influence of which will cause many to accept Christ as Saviour."

Bernice Cross
January, 1971



BUDGET PLANNING COMMITTEE

Left to right: Mrs. W.S. Gibson; R.A. Bryan, Sr.; B.G. Stowe; D.N. Alexander; Charles Norwood, Chairman; Mr. Cross, Pastor; George Bain, General Chairman, Forward Program; Dr. Ralph Bland; Mrs. Julian Gaskill; Mrs. Cecil Best.

DR. E. LEON SMITH

1940 -

32nd Pastor: November 1969 - Present 1987

E. Leon Smith, was born January 13, 1940 in Williamston, South Carolina, the youngest of five children of Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Smith, Sr. Married to the former Martha G. Teague (B Music degree from University of Louisville, Ky.) of High Point, N.C. They have two children: Allison, born December 19, 1962; and Lee, born October 3, 1966. Smith graduated from Palmetto High School, Williamston, South Carolina, in 1957. He received the A.A. degree from Anderson Junior College in 1959 and the B.A. degree from Furman University in 1961. He entered the Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest and earned the degrees of Bachelor of Divinity in 1965, Master of Theology in 1968, and Doctor of Ministry in 1973. He received Clinical Pastor Education at N.C. Baptist Hospital and Continuing Theological Education from Furman University. Smith was ordained September 9, 1962 by the First Baptist Church, Belton, South Carolina. His church experience includes: Youth Director, First Baptist Church, Langley, South Carolina (summer, 1961); Pastor, Bonlee Baptist Church, Bonlee, North Carolina (1962-1965); Associate Pastor and Acting Minister, First Baptist Church, Lenoir, North Carolina (1965-1967); Associate Pastor, Green Street Baptist Church, High Point, North Carolina (1968-1969); Pastor, First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina (Nov. 1969 - present). Smith led his congregation in establishing a partnership with the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Headley, England, after taking part in the European Baptist Convention in 1984. He is a founder of United Church Ministries of Wayne County. In November 1987, Smith captured the office of President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention in Greensboro by the largest margin ever recorded as moderates swept into the state convention's top three offices. He won 62.3% of the vote.



Dr. E. Leon Smith

Dr. Smith has been very active in civic and community affairs. He is a member of the Rotary Club; Chairman of Goldsboro Protestant Kindergarten Program; Board member of Wayne County Mental Health; Boys' Club; Sheltered Workshop; Goldsboro Public Schools; and Chaplain of North Carolina Association of Rescue Squads.

In the denomination, prior to his election in 1987 to the Presidency of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, he was member of the General Board for five years and first Vice President for the years 1985-1986, member of the Executive Committee, Christian Life and Public Affairs, Bylaws, and President of Pastors

Conference Neuse Baptist Association. He was a leader in all committees and activities of the State Convention, fully qualifying him to lead North Carolina Baptist as President, the only position he has not held.

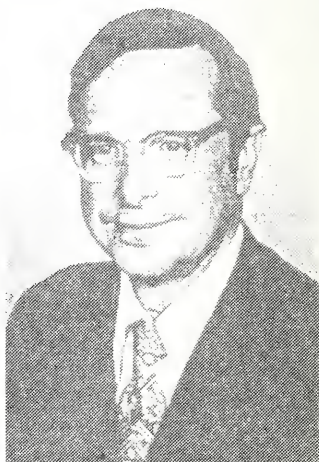
Dr. Smith will be remembered as the pastor who led in our expansion program of 1979-1983. More than one million dollars was invested in new land and buildings that doubled the size of our church plant in land and buildings and cost of operations. Our annual budget has also been doubled and there is no mortgage after our drive of "Debt No More in '84".

Source: Church Records

LONGTIME CHURCH STAFF PERSONNEL



Mrs. L. Woodrow Kemp (Ruth)
Financial Secretary
1965-1987



Gordon Flesher
Minister of Music
1966-1982



Mrs. Kenneth Barbour (Helen)
Director, Day Care

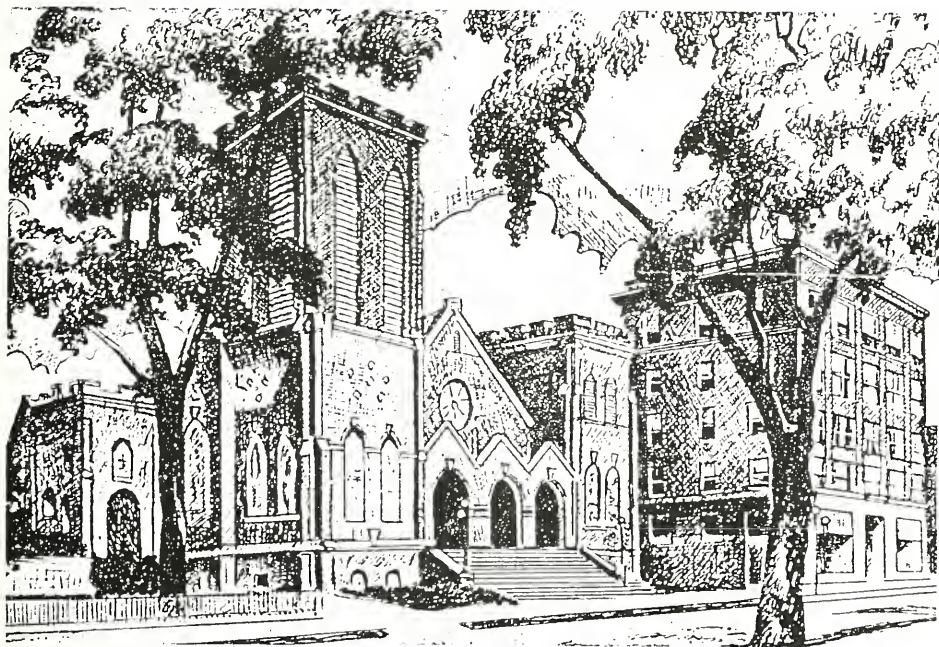


Mrs. Carlyle Eure (Adell)
Church Hostess

EMINENT MEMBERS OF EARLY YEARS

Outstanding Church Officers and Leaders Listed in Church Minutes

Honorable William Turner Faircloth	b. 1829
Governor Curtis Hooks Brogden	b. 1816
J.M. Hollowell	b. 1840
Major Hiram L. Grant	b. 1843
Captain J.E. Peterson	b. 1848
Governor Charles Brantly Aycock	b. 1859
Dr. J.Y Joyner	b. 1862
Hersey B. Parker	b. 1870
B.G. Stowe	b. 1892
Maynard A. Shaver	b. 1900
Raymond A. Bryan	b. 1900



EMINENT MEMBERS OF OUR EARLY YEARS

Hon. William Turner Faircloth, b. 1829 in Edgecombe County. Entered Wake Forest Law School in 1850. Completed the course in 1854. In 1856 located in Goldsboro at the time we were building our first church on John Street. He was an outstanding student at Wake Forest and had immediate success as a lawyer, Legislator and churchman. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1875 but he continued his residence in Goldsboro and the Missionary Baptist Church. He was in 1891 a Trustee of U.N.C., Wake Forest College, Baptist Female University (Meredith), and the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville. He was identified with many important enterprises of the State, a director of the W & W Railroad, Goldsboro Furniture Co., Hotel Gregory, Bank of Wayne. He owned a large share of Goldsboro real estate. He was a benefactor of all Baptist institutions. The first office that he built on Walnut Street is now restored and has been moved to 207 E. Spruce Street on the County parking lot. Faircloth returned to the Supreme Court as Chief Justice in 1890 where he remained until his death in December 1900.



Hon. William Turner Faircloth

Governor Curtis Hooks Brogden, b. 1816-1901. First N.C. Governor from Wayne County. He was born in southern Wayne and became the youngest member at age 22 to be elected to the House in 1838. He was re-elected for 10 consecutive terms. Although a licensed lawyer, he never practiced. he had launched a successful political career that lasted for 50 years (1838-1888), in the House of Representatives, State Senate, State Comptroller, State Senate, Lt. Gov., Governor, U.S. Congress and again in the House of Representatives. He never married. He was a lifetime member of First Baptist, better known in those days as the Missionary Baptist Church.



Gov. Curtis Hooks Brogden

J.M. Hollowell was born Mar. 8, 1840 in old Everittsville, four miles south of Goldsboro. He died June 18, 1912 at his home on East Holly Street in Goldsboro. He was 72 years old. A devout Christian, he was for 30 years clerk of the First Baptist Church, trustee, teacher and deacon. He filled many offices of trust in the community - agent for Richmond and Danville R.R., also the Southern Railway - cashier of National Bank of Goldsboro - State Legislature 1903-1907 - Board of Alderman - Assistant Register of Deeds - Clerk of City of Goldsboro - Historian and member of Goldsboro rifles that defended Fort Macon and recorded and published the seige and fall of the fort in 1861. He was with Gen. Bragg in Goldsboro in the closing days of the War and witnessed Scholfield's men marching into town March 19, 1865.



J.M. Hollowell

Maj. Hiram Lewis Grant, 1843-1922. He was born in Woonsocket, R.I. He was first in Goldsboro in 1866 as the third and last Provost Marshal. He fought at Fort Fisher and was made Provost Marshal of Wilmington at the close of the War. In 1866 he was transferred to Goldsboro. He ruled the town. He liked the people and the people liked him. After martial law was lifted in 1868, he left to return to Connecticut to fetch a wife. He returned in 1869 with his bride, Elizabeth (Lizzie), E. Green, b. 1844-1913. H.L. Grant was appointed Postmaster on his return. He and his wife joined our church and became life members, involved in every phase of church activity. He built the first Sunday School addition to the church so his wife would have a better place to teach. He was at the same time Superintendent of the Sunday School. When our new brick church was built, Major Grant purchased the old church and gave it away so he could build an office building that is today our Education Building.



Major H.L. Grant and his wife, Lizzie G. Grant, Ruth Wilkins and Evelyn Wilkins, his granddaughters.

In 1874 Major Grant purchased the abandoned lots at Old Waynesborough and established his brick manufacturing plant on the clay hills of the Neuse

River. All of the Grants were active in the church. Three daughters were teachers. Their only son, John Hiram, was ordained a minister by our church in 1894. Major Grant was a liberal benefactor as his many generous deeds testify. A memorial window to the family keeps us mindful of their long dedicated service.

Joseph Eppy Peterson, b. Oct. 27, 1848, d. November 24, 1917, was the son of Eppy Peterson, an esteemed farmer of Duplin County and Ann Gregory Sintas, daughter of Honorable Joseph Anthony Sintas, Spanish consul to the U.S. stationed at Wilmington, N.C. He married Mary Catherine (Kate) Parker, January 1, 1872. There were five children: Walter Parker Peterson (m. Ida Glover); Laura (Mrs. Hight C. Moore); Irene (Mrs. W.J. Mathews); Henry; and Joseph.

J.E. Peterson. was elected Mayor of Goldsboro on May 4, 1887 and served until 1891. In 1898 he was elected Mayor again and served until 1901. During his terms in office a sewage system was installed in Goldsboro; drinking fountains and water troughs for horses were installed on prominent corners downtown and in Webb-town; the first fire equipment and fire engine steam pumper, the Mary Alice, were purchased; a pest house was opened for small pox patients near the Neuse River in March 1899; a city water plant and electric light plant were proposed for the city.

For more than thirty years, J.E. Peterson was a magistrate and he served as U.S. Commissioner for the Eastern District of N.C. during his last years.

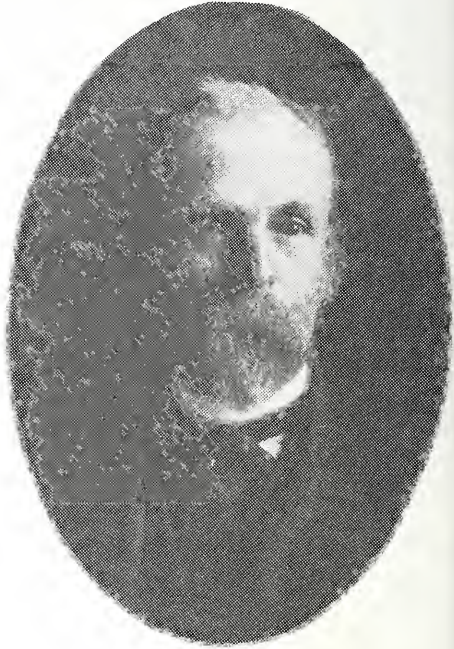
Capt. Peterson was a Deacon of the First Baptist Church for forty-five years and was chairman when the church was built in 1912. Capt. Peterson operated a dry goods store on East Walnut Street for many years. His home was at 313 South William Street.

by Catherine Ham

CAPT. JOSEPH E. PETERSON
Goldsboro, N.C. 1912

Brother Peterson is the Chairman of the Committee on Hospitality at the Convention meeting in Goldsboro, December 3.-6. This is the third time he has been the host of the Convention, having served in this capacity at the sessions of 1880 and 1891. He is the senior deacon of the First Baptist Church, his term of continuous service dating back into 1872 – forty years ago. Prominent and influential in the business and political life of his city, having among other honors served several terms as Mayor, he finds his greatest privilege and highest joy in the interests of the church and denomination to which he belongs, and in the extension of the Kingdom of our Lord unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

Excerpt from Biblical Recorder



Joseph E. Peterson

Governor Charles B. Aycock, b. 1859-1912. He was the second Wayne County native and member of our church to become Governor of our State. Born in 1859 on a farm near Fremont, he entered U.N.C. in 1877 and was licensed a lawyer in 1881 and began practicing with Judge Daniels in Goldsboro. A most eloquent speaker, he soon became the foremost orator in North Carolina, his subject being education, became his battle cry when he was ready to run for Governor. He was elected by the largest majority ever. He and his wife, Cora Woodard, lived at 408 S. William before and after he was Governor. As a member of our Missionary Baptist Church, he influenced many people that the church stood for helping people through education. He was acclaimed our Education Governor throughout the South. While making an address on education in Birmingham, Ala. he suffered a stroke and died April 4, 1912.



Governor Charles Brantley Aycock

Dr. J.Y. Joyner, born in 1862, was a student at Wake Forest and U.N.C. where he graduated in 1881 at age 19, the youngest member of his class. He taught school in LaGrange for three years and studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1886. He began practice of law in Goldsboro, his partners being Chief Justice of Supreme Court Faircloth and Superior Court Justice William R. Allen. He was a professor and Dean of N.C. State College for Women. In 1902, Governor Aycock appointed him State Superintendent of Public Instruction which he held for 17 years. Aycock and Joyner of Goldsboro and the Missionary Baptist Church made a name for public education in North Carolina. Dr. Joyner was married to Sallie A. Wooten of LaGrange where he spent his last years of retirement. He was superintendent of our Sunday School in 1888 while associated with Judge Faircloth.



Dr. J.Y. Joyner

Hersey B. Parker, Att., b. 1870 Hertford County, N.C. Died in Goldsboro in 1941. A leader in the church for 50 years, 1892-1941, a teacher, deacon, Superintendent of Sunday School for 15 years, historian, and Secretary of Building Committee that built the present church in 1911-1913. Mr. Parker kept all of the records, bills and accounts including the list of non-church members who made contributions. He saved Biblical recorders of November - December 1912 when the State Convention met in our church before it was complete. His records, pictures of many past years is the main source for this updated history of the church.



Hersey B. Parker

Belvy Greene Stowe, better known as Mr. B.G., arrived in Goldsboro and First Baptist in the spring of 1941 to assume the duties of District Engineer for Southern Cotton Oil Co. he was born in 1892 in Statham, Ga. He married Ms. Jamis Pipkin of McCall, S.C., May 15, 1919.

First Baptist Church of Goldsboro had had many outstanding and loyal members who have a long record of service to their church, but during the past fifty years I know no other one who has been so active and devoted as B.G. Stowe. From the day he joined our church, it has been "What can I do?" There was plenty to do and B.G. Stowe did it all except preach. Before he was in our midst six months, our town was overrun with Air Force men and we find B.G. in the church with our preacher, A.J. Smith, and Roy J. Parker preparing and serving Sunday morning breakfast to the military men, all comers. B.G. was chosen



B. G. Stowe

deacon early. He served for many years and was chairman in 1949 and again in 1952. His first assignment was that of General Secretary of the Sunday School. In 1950 he was our Budget Secretary and did the financial bookkeeping from his home at night. He was also chairman of the ushers at the same time. He became Church Treasurer in 1957 and continued in that position for fifteen years. He acted as property and maintenance manager for twenty years, a job no one wanted. He served under Rev. A.J. Smith, Gilmer Cross and E. Leon Smith. B.G. spent his last days in Guardian Care. He died June 7, 1978 and was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Goldsboro, N.C. He served as a First Lieutenant during World War I and was wounded at the Battle of Chateau Theirry.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

1949

BOARD OF DEACONS

Life Deacon	John R. Crawford
B.G. Stowe, Chairman	Ed Denmark, Vice Chairman
Alexander, D.N.	Norwood, Charles
Branch, L.O.	Parker, Roy J.
Brown, Ed	Purser, Roy M.
Bryan, Robert	Seymour, G.F.
Bryan, Carroll	Snypes, Thomas
Carroll, Howard	Stowe, B.G.
Denmark, Ed	Washburn, A.V.
Church Clerk	Mrs. A.V. Washburn
Church Treasurer	Mrs. J. Andrew Smith

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING OPERATING COMMITTEE

B.B. Montague, Chm.	D.N. Alexander	D.H. Bland
	Raymond Bryan	Roy M. Purser

TRUSTEES

Charles Norwood, Chm.	Roy M. Purser	Henry V. Modlin
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USHERS

Roy J. Parker, Chairman	B.G. Stowe, Vice Chm.
D.N. Alexander	Roy M. Purser
John Brendle	R.N. Rouse
Carroll Bryan	M.A. Shaver
Bruce Duke	A.F. Scott
Tom Jenkins, Jr.	Wayne Smith

Maynard A. Shaver was born Jan. 30, 1900 and died June 23, 1986. A veteran of World War I, he was an underwriter of Mutual of New York for 50 years. He was a founder and charter member of Adamsville Baptist Church where he served in every capacity. He served two terms as moderator of the Baptist Neuse Association and two terms on the board of the Baptist State Convention. He was a former member of First Baptist Church where he served as superintendent of the Sunday School Department for 20 years, church clerk and deacon. He helped start Brookside Mission which was a mission of First Baptist Church. He was a trustee of the Christian Action League and a life member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

He was one of the early members of the Goldsboro Civitan Club, serving as a past



Maynard A. Shaver

lieutenant governor and past president of the club. He served as president of the Wayne County Life Underwriters Association, former vice chairman of the Cancer Fund drive for Goldsboro, and former secretary of the Citizens Savings and Loan Association.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Helen P. Shaver; one son, Dr. Thomas E. Shaver of Mount Olive; three daughters, Mrs. Hazel Hoogenboom of Arcadia, CA; Mrs. Ruth Columbus of Columbia, S.C., Mrs. Rebecca S. Johnson of Hope Mills; one sister, Mrs. Lillie Williams of Drexel; 15 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren.

Raymond A. Bryan, born in Newton Grove in 1900, moved to Goldsboro in 1926 to work with W.P. Rose, Contracting-Architectural firm. Married Miss Ruby Morris in 1929. Their only child is son Ray Bryan, Jr. All of the family are faithful supporters of First Baptist Church from the mid-twenties to date.

About 1930 Raymond joined a friend, T.A. Loving, to form a contracting firm of T.A. Loving Company that grew rapidly and created great confidence in their ability as builders. T.A. Loving died shortly and Raymond assumed full responsibility for the expanding company. His whole family and in-laws were involved in church activities that made it easy for Raymond to take a leading role in the church's affairs, particularly in the area of finance. His modest and generous contributions to all church endeavors and enlargements made every goal a success. His company made all major improvements to the church properties from 1940, 1959-60, and the last major million dollar expansion program in 1979-82. He lived to see the last big debt paid in full, about the time of his death in September 1983. His love and devotion to his church testifies him as our greatest benefactor of recent years. His son, Ray Bryan, Jr., continues his church interest and involvement as Deacon, Chairman of Finance Committee and Usher.



Raymond A. Bryan

OUTSTANDING CHURCH OFFICERS AND LEADERS LISTED IN CHURCH MINUTES

- 1843 Charles J. Nelson, Founder
- 1856 J.J. Baker, Deacon, 1st Bldg. Comm.
- 1859 Rev. John T. Albritton, teacher, 1st to be ordained by our church.
- 1862-1912 J.M. Hollowell, Clerk (30 years), Trustee.
- 1863-1868 Peter & William Bogart, Supt. of Sunday School.
- 1864 A.H. Keaton, Deacon.
- 1870 J.J. Robinson, Supt. Treas., Deacon, Teacher.
- 1872 H.L. Grant, Deacon, Supt. Sunday School.
- 1869 Mrs. Lizzie Grant, Sunday School Teacher, 25 yrs., Pres. W.M.U.
- 1888-1890 Mrs. William Robinson, President W.M.U.
- 1894 J. Hiram Grant, son - Ordained by Church 1894.
- 1880 Charles B. Aycock, Gov., Trustee.
- 1888 Curtis Brogden, Governor.
- 1888 Dr. J.Y. Joyner, Supt. of Sunday School.
- 1888 W.T. Faircloth, Chief Justice, N.C. State.
- 1886 Mrs. A.S. Turner, W.M.U.
- 1872-1912 J.E. Peterson, Life Deacon, Teacher, Treas., Sunday School Superintendent
- 1913 Mrs. J.E. Peterson, President W.M.U.
- 1891 John R. Crawford, Life Deacon, Trustee, Benefactor.
- 1891-1893 Mrs. Ellen Edwards, President W.M.U.
- 1893 D.J. Riverbark, Deacon, Supt. Sunday School, Custodian.
- 1897 W.G. Britt, Treas., Deacon, Finance Comm.
- 1898 F.R. Hall, Sunday School Supt.
- 1897-1899 W.J. Mathews, Sunday School Supt., Deacon, Builder of Present Church.
- 1899 Mrs. Frank B. Edmondson, President W.M.U.
- 1900-1905 H.B. Parker, Atty., Sunday School Supt., Deacon, Teacher, Historian
- 1909 Frank B. Edmondson, Deacon.
- 1900 E.L. Edmondson, Deacon, Sunday School Supt., Benefactor.
- 1916-1922 Mrs. E.L. Edmondson, President W.M.U.
- 1901 G.A. Norwood, Finance Comm., Trustee, Delegate.
- 1925-1928 Mrs. G.A. Norwood, President W.M.U.
- 1894 Carter H. Jenkins, Ordained, Son of C.A. Jenkins, Pastor.
- 1909 W.E. Stroud, Church Clerk, Sunday School Supt., Choir.
- 1897 Mrs. R.E. Pipkin, President W.M.U.
- 1912 R.E. Pipkin, Deacon.
- 1914 Mrs. C.E. Wilkins, Minnie Grant, President W.M.U.
- 1914 Mrs. W.M. Petway, Pres. of W.M.U., organized Royal Ambassadors.
- 1914 Mrs. Paul Yelverton (Annie Pipkin), President W.M.U.
- 1914 E.W. Norwood, 1st member of Royal Ambassadors, later 1925 became missionary to China.
- 1905 J.D. Whitley, Deacon, Sunday School Supt.

- 1928 Charles S. Norwood, Supt. Jr. Dept., Teacher, Deacon, Finance
Trustee, 1st Bylaws, Restoration of Sanctuary 1960 & Education
Bldg., Church Historian
- 1950 Mrs. Mary C. Norwood, Teacher, President W.M.U.
- 1909 D.L. Cuthrell, Deacon, Supt. Sunday School, Organizer of State
Baraca Class in 1916
- 1916 Ms. Carrie Dorrity, Organizer of State Philathea Class.
- 1923 S.F. Teague, Sunday School Supt.
- 1927 Victor Pate, Sunday School Supt.
- 1925-1955 M.A. Shaver, Sunday School Supt., Deacon, Clerk, Organizer of
Adamsville Baptist Church
- 1925 Mrs. T.N. Waters, W.M.U.
- 1930 A.V. Washburn, Supt. Sunday School, Deacon.
- 1931 E.C. Futrell, Sunday School Secy. and Church Clerk.
- 1939 H.V. Modlin, Deacon, Trustee, Finance, Sunday School Supt.
- 1939 Dr. A.H. Zealy, Deacon.
- 1939 Wayne F. Smith, Deacon.
- 1934 Mrs. I.L. Kelly, Mission, Greenleaf Mission Leader.
- 1925 George W. Waters, Deacon.
- 1925 Rev. Forrest Jones and Mrs. Forrest Jones, Teacher and Mission
Leaders.
- 1925 B.F. Carr, Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent.
- 1916 Mrs. Lora Suggs, Teacher, Mrs. Lucy Jones.
- 1925 Graham Hood
- 1925 Gertrude Prince Hood
- 1926 Eleanor Daniels Ward
- 1930 Emmett Williams
- 1950 Margaret Howell, Sunday School Secretary
- 1950 Julian Gaskill, Teacher, Bylaws, Deacon.
Mrs. Faye Gaskill, President W.M.U.
- 1950 R.M. Purser, Trustee, Finance, Deacon, Teacher.
- 1958-1960 Mrs. Cecil Best (Nellie Edwards), President W.M.U.
- 1925 H.G. Maxwell, Deacon
- 1915 O.L. Ipock, Church Clerk, followed J.M. Hollowell, Deacon.
Mrs. D.H. Bland, President W.M.U.
- 1925 Judge D.H. Bland, Deacon, Choir.
- 1926 Annie Mildred Kelly Ginn, 1st Financial Secy.
- 1927 H.L. Graham, Finance Secy., Deacon.
- 1928 Guion Lee, Clerk.
- 1929-1951 Mrs. A.V. Washburn, 1st Financial Secy., Church Clerk.
- 1929 Roy Sasser, Deacon, Bylaws.
- 1929 Roy J. Parker, Head Usher, Assistant Pastor, Deacon.
- 1929 Ethel Lylies, Secy.
- 1925-1950 Laura Harrell, Financial Secy., W.M.U. Pres.
- 1936 William S. Gibson, Deacon, Choir
- 1936 Mrs. Clyde Crawford, W.M.U. Pres., Teacher.
- 1938 Roy J. Parker, Jr. Deacon, Usher, Building and Grounds.
- 1937 Dr. Annie D. Denmark, W.M.U. Pres., Treacher.
- 1941-1941 Mrs. A.J. Smith, President W.M.U. 1947-1948.

- 1950-1960 J. Ben Burroughs, Deacon, Finance.
- 1950-1960 D.N. Alexander, Deacon, Finance & Budget.
- 1945 Mildred Crowder, Music Director, Young People Director.
- 1946 Luther R. Thomas, Deacon, Teacher of Men, Sunday School Superintendent.
- 1946 J.W. Gaddy, Deacon, Teacher Men's Bible Class, Sunday School Superintendent
- 1946 B.G. Stowe, Deacon, Finance & Budget Secy., Custodian, Bldg. & Grounds.
- 1926 Mr. J.C. Pate, Sunday School Secy for 20 years.
- 1912 Mrs. J.C. Pate, Organist (1912-1946), 34 years.
- 1938 W. Carroll Bryan, Chairman, Board of Deacons, Teacher.
- 1947 O.C. Liles, Sunday School Assist. without title.
- 1946 Mrs. J. Andrew Smith, Church Treas., W.M.U. Pres. 1940.
- 1945 Mrs. B.A. Loftin, Church Secy., Finance Secy.
- 1946 W. Powell Bland, Teacher, organizer of Madison Ave. Baptist Church
- 1946 John L. Henderson, Deacon, Teacher, Choir.
- 1946 Mrs. W.F. Mintz (Elizabeth Smith), Organist and Choir Director
- 1946 Jesse Hinson, Deacon, Teacher.
- Mrs. Fred Harrell, Secy., Teacher, President W.M.U.
- 1946 Paul Edmondson, Teacher of Men's Bible Class, Deacon.
- 1946 Thomas Snypes, Teacher, Deacon, Choir, Finance.
- 1946 Mrs. Virginia C. Henderson, Teacher, Deacon, President W.M.U. 1952-54-71-73.
- 1946 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hocutt, Building Comm., Deacon.
- 1946 Mr. and Mrs. G. Frank Seymour, Trustee, Deacon, Teacher, Finance.
- 1978-1981 Mrs. John R. Crawford, Jr. (Annie Laurie), President W.M.U., Choir.
- 1946 Mrs. Catherine M. Ham, Teacher, W.M.U., Historian.
- 1947 Louis Bullock, Choir Director.
- 1955 John R. Crawford, Jr., Deacon, Property Manager, Finance, Building Custodian.
- 1955 Julian Gaskill, Deacon, Teacher, Bylaws.
- 1948 Earl Stapleton, Choir Director.
- 1940 Mrs. Carroll Bryan, Teacher.
- 1949 Andy and Barbara Griffith, Choir.
- 1938 E.H. Bain, Deacon.
- 1949 Gloria Mayer, Director of Young People.
- 1949 R.E. Bryan, Finance, Bylaws Comm., Deacon.
- 1946 Raymond A. Bryan, Deacon, Finance, Benefactor.
- 1946 J.H. Manley, Deacon.
- 1949 Bruce Duke, Deacon.
- 1951 Mrs. Ruby D. Griffin, Church Treas.
- 1950 Jack Bracy, Interim Pastor for A.J. Smith.
- 1950 Mr. Gerald Layden, Trustee, Deacon.
- 1950 Mrs. Carolyn Layden, Church Secy.
- 1952 Mrs. Henry Modlin, Jr., Church Secy.

- 1951 Rev. Frederick Jones, Supply Pastor.
- 1954 Rev. Roy Beal, 1st pastor of new Madison Ave. Bapt. Church.
- 1954-1956 Mrs. L.L. Edgerton (Ruth Boyce), President W.M.U.
- 1950 Henry Belk, Deacon.
- 1952 Mrs. Henry Belk, President W.M.U.
- 1950 George E. Bain, Teacher, Deacon, Secy., Supt. Sunday School, Choir.
- 1958 Mrs. George Bain (Zula), Building Comm., Deacon, Finance.
- 1960 Ralph Bland, Finance, Budget.
- 1958 Ray A. Bryan, Jr., Deacon, Finance, Bldg. Comm., Usher.
- 1959 D. Ed Howell, Supt. of Sunday School.
- 1960 Simon Jessee, Supt. Sunday School, Deacon, Secy.
- 1962-1965 Mrs. Lois Carter, Church Secy.
- 1968 Wm. R. Crow, Church Deacon, Teacher, Bylaws Comm.
- 1960 E. Bruce Sloop, Minister of Music.
- 1969 Dr. M.G. Delbridge, Church Pulpit Comm., Deacon, Finance.
- 1969 Leland Hairr, Deacon, Finance, Teacher, Usher.
- 1969 Lola Delbridge, Bldg. Comm., Deacon, Teacher.
- 1969 Ida Williams, Pulpit Comm. Deacon, Finance, Day Care
- 1969 James L. Williams, Teacher, Deacon, Committee Ch. Finance and Building & Grounds.
- 1960 Henson Barnes, Child Care, Usher, Deacon, Finance.
- 1960-1978 Ruth Kemp, Financial Secy.
- 1969 Rev. John T. Bunn, Supply Pastor for Gilmer Cross.
- 1970 Joe James, Deacon, Director of Expansion Program.
- 1970 John Duke, Usher, Budget & Finance.
- 1970 Odell Tyndall, Deacon, Choir.
- 1970 Douglas Sturgill, Minister of Education.
- 1972 Robert Malpass, Deacon, Usher.
- 1971-1976 Mrs. Gilmer Cross, President W.M.U.
- 1972 Glen Chitty, Treas., Deacon.
- 1967-1968 Mrs. Mildred Gaylor, President W.M.U.
- 1960 William L. Powell, Deacon, Finance, Pulpit Comm., Trustee.
- 1972 Ralph and Catherine Smith, Deacon and Day Care
- 1960 Mrs. Emily Powell, President W.M.U., Child Care, Deacon.
- 1972 T.T. Powell, Deacon, Teacher.
- 1945 Ellen Piner, Minister of Music.
- 1965-1980 Gordon Fletcher, Minister of Music.
- 1951 Cecil Best, Deacon, Bylaws.
- 1972 Dallas Preswood, Minister of Education.
- 1972 Sid Briley, Deacon, Scout Leader.
- 1972 Troy Pate, Deacon, Finance Comm. Ch.
- 1973 Mrs. Carlyle Eure (Adell Sherard), President W.M.U., Bylaws, Hostess.
- 1975 Jerome Mathews, Deacon.
- 1920-1951 Catherine Mathews Ham, Teacher, President W.M.U., Historian.
- 1975 Parham Taylor, Deacon, Teacher, United Missions Treas.
- 1975 Cecil Merritt, Deacon, Teacher, Choir.
- 1975 Karl Malpass, Deacon, Teacher.

- 1975 Mrs. Loren Pate, Kindergarten, President W.M.U.
- 1976 Kenneth Fulghum, Deacon, Day Care, Finance.
- 1976 James Pittman, Teacher, Church Treasurer.
- 1976 Ray Bryan, Jr., Deacon, Finance Ch.
- 1976 John Getsinger, Church Treas.
- 1978 Bruce Malpass, Deacon, Usher
- 1975-1981 Sarah Ellis Getsinger, President W.M.U., Librarian.
- 1979 Harry Overby, Deacon, Finance, Library.
- 1979 Sam Everette, Education Minister.
- 1980 Farris Duncan, Deacon.
- 1980 Mack H. Privott, Deacon, Finance.
- 1981 Mrs. Randall Adams, President W.M.U.
- 1982 Steve Lucas, Education Minister.
- 1982 Mrs. Glenn Chitty, President W.M.U.
- 1982 David Daily, Education Minister.
- 1982 Charles Stackhouse, Deacon, Finance, Bylaws.
- 1972 Gordon Maxwell, III, Deacon, Finance, Usher.
- 1972 Don and Joy Jacobs, Deacons.
- 1979 Charles Gaylor, Trustee, Deacon.
- Rhonda Gaylor, Child Care.
- 1970 Randall Adams, Deacon, Choir.
- 1979 Rev. John H. Bunn, Teacher.
- 1960 Mrs. Helen Barbour, Director of Child Care.
- 1962 C.D. Mixon, Usher, Budget Finance, Deacon, Building & Grounds.
- 1960 Carlyle and Adell Eure, Deacon, Finance, Hostess, Usher.
- 1969 John H. Bunn, Jr., Interim Pastor, 1969.

Members for over 50 years as of 1988

Karl Malpass	Eva Scott	Mr. B.J. Phifer
W.H. Malpass, Jr.	Cleo Seymour	Mrs. B.J. Phifer
Dorene Musgrave Brown	Vera Cohn	Ruby Griffin
Jeneverette Thigpen	Howard D. Carroll, Sr.	Rachel Hunt Brown
Isabel Denmark	Patti Shumate	Catherine Ham
Anna Parker	Kiver Denning	William A. Prince
Fay Meador	John R. Crawford	Nellie Best
Hallie Pate	Luna Modlin	Ruby Bryan
Sadie P. Barnes	T.R. Jackson	Virginia Henderson
Dan Ward	Bettie Sandford	Charles S. Norwood
Mildren Ginn	Tommy Snypes	Cynthia Daughtry Pollock
Eleanor Ward	Janie James	Mildred Smith Maxwell
Roy Parker	Margaret Howell	Ruth Mathews
John Duke	Effie McCullen	Della Denmark
Gertrude Hood	William C. Futrelle	Gladys Harris Ratley
Eliza Casteen	Edward Little	Shelton Brown
George Casteen	Catherine Smith	George E. Bain
Hilda Trueblood	Grace Nolan	Annie Hollingsworth
Julia M. Holder	Sarah Howell	Caroline Dorrry

PART III ADDENDUM

More History of Special Events in the Life of the Church

- 1894 Waynesborough Religious Interest recorded by Rev. J.T. Albritton.
- 1886-1981 A History of the Women's Missionary Union of First Baptist, organization in 1886 to 1981, by Catherine Ham, Historian.
- 1860-1912 Biblical Recorders' Report of the Five State Conventions held in Goldsboro. 1860 - 1867 - 1880 - 1891 all in the first church built in 1858. 1912, December 12th, on completion of new brick church.
- 1900-1979 History of the By Laws of the Church.
- 1904-1980 Church Memorials (See Special Photo Album in Library and also Memorial Book in South Vestibule.
- 1946-1983 Kindergarten to Day Care Ministry.
- 1982 United Church Ministries.
- 1987 Dr. E. Leon Smith is elected President of N.C. State Convention.
- 1832 Origin of the State Convention.

In conclusion . . .

Most of this history was written in 1969. It was first published in the NEWS-ARGUS and then in the Church Directory of 1970. Part III called the Addendum enables me to cover in more detail events and subjects that were not covered sufficiently in the first writing and gives me the opportunity to add major events and items since the cutoff date for Part I in 1982.



A New Marker – A New View

WAYNESBOROUGH'S RELIGIOUS INTERESTS

By Rev. J.T. Albritton, Mt. Olive
February 1, 1894 (Goldsboro Headlight)

In this paper, I wish to tell of the religious interests of the old town. I am indebted to Rev. C.J. Nelson, of Goldsboro, for many of the facts that follow. When Bro. Nelson moved to Waynesborough in 1838, he found there no house of worship. A free house was built about 1840 through the liberality of Richard Washington, Geo. W. Collier, and John Wright, Martin Stevenson, and others.

The first public Sunday School ever organized in Wayne County, Bro. Nelson states, was the school he organized in Waynesborough about the date of 1842. This school still exists, and is known as the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro. My memory can recall but very few incidents of my Sunday School life during my residence in the town, as I was not at all inclined to have anything to do with religious matters of any sort. I was afraid of all preachers and shunned them as I would a snake. (By the way, the time has been that the reverend gentlemen were to be feared, and their title "reverend" from "revereri" to fear, was quite appropriate.)

But I remember that the Bible was in more general use than now, the memorizing and repeating of long passages of Scripture being a common and popular practice. My little sister Fannie, when in her sixth year, repeated from memory the whole of the third chapter of Matthew. Several of the first pupils of the school were first taught their letters and how to read in that school, and afterwards became pious and useful members of the church.

Between 1840 and 1842 quite a religious awakening was brought about by the visit and labors of Revs. Robt. McNabb, David Thompson, and Dupree, Baptist ministers, and several professions of religion resulted. The meetings were held alternately in the free church of Waynesborough and in the old Academy of Goldsboro. Another great awakening occurred later on or about the year 1848 under the leadership of Rev. Ira T. Wyche, a Methodist minister, who impressed me as not being a very eloquent speaker, but a man of deep piety and great earnestness. I was an unconcerned spectator, but I remember that many of the prominent citizens of the surrounding country made a profession of religion during the progress of that meeting.

As the outcome of the first religious awakening, the church now known as the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro was organized. This occurred in 1842 or 43. The church applied for membership in the Union (now Eastern) Association in 1844 through her delegates, T.C. Garrison and Rev. Wm. Robinson, the pastor. The constituent members of the church were Chas. J. Nelson, Thomas C. Garrison, Mrs. Lizzie Garrison, Patsy Powell, and Cynthia Ellis. Brother Nelson is the only original member now living. He resides in Goldsboro, retains a large measure of his physical vigor, and preaches wherever opportunity offers.

Beginning with five members, this church reported a membership of twenty-three to the Association in 1844. To my mind, the most remarkable and gracious revival with which God has ever blessed this church was the great revival of 1856, during the pastorate of Dr. David Coulling of Richmond, Va. The church then worshipped in the old Academy, which stood on or near the spot now occupied by the new Methodist Church called St. Paul's. While Dr. Coulling did

most of the preaching, and was the leading spirit in the meeting, A.P. Repiton, Dr. Chas. F. Deems, and Dr. Jas. B. Taylor, Sr. Corresponding Secretary of the F.M. Board of the S. B. Convention, preached, at least once each, during the meeting. Dr. Deems probably preached more than once, as he was at the time pastor of the Goldsboro Methodist Church. I heard him once, however, and still remember much of his able and lucid sermon on Faith.

Dr. Taylor's sermon was timely. Many of us were troubled about restricted communion, and we requested him to preach on that subject. He cheerfully complied. He didn't put on war paint, as too many preachers do when they discuss distinctive principles, but with much tenderness and affection he spoke the truth with great plainness, showing that we, in common with other leading denominations, required the scriptural prerequisites of repentance, faith, baptism, and church membership. We saw what we should have seen before, and what everybody, it seems to me should be able to see that the trouble was not about the terms of communions, but about what constitutes scriptural baptism. Bro. Coulling, under God, led me to Christ, and Bro. Taylor led me into the Baptist Church. I believe that about one hundred persons professed faith in Christ during the meeting, some uniting with the Baptists, and some going to other denominations. Dr. Deems immersed some of the new converts in Neuse River, just as Dr. Coulling did.

From the date of organization in Waynesborough, 1842 or 43, to the present, the following ministerial brethren have occupied the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Goldsboro: David Thompson, of Smithfield, Wm. Robinson, A.J. Battle, H. Miner, J.J. James, editor of the Recorder, Samuel Wait, president of Wake Forest College, David Coulling, George Bradford, Geo. W. Keesee, N.B. Cobb, P.D. Gold, Theodore Whitfield, J.B. Hardwicke, Geo. W. Sanderlin, C. Durham, F.H. Ivey, Thomas Dixon, J.S. Dill, J.H. Edwards, and C.A. Jenkins.

Although many years have passed away since the severance of my connection with this church, I have lost none of my interest in her welfare. Here was my first ecclesiastical home, having been baptized into her fellowship by Dr. Coulling, October 5th, 1856. She granted me license to preach January 12th, 1857. In my twenty-first year, I was ordained to the full work of the ministry by this church February 18th, 1859. Dr. Thos. E. Skinner of Raleigh, preaching the ordination sermon. It was a good sermon, but it was too long for Bro. George Bradford, who had to follow with the charge to the candidate. Some say that Bro. Bradford had gone to sleep under Dr. Skinner's sermon, and had to be aroused from his slumber to act his part in the programme. He was soon wide awake, however, and charged vigorously. His charge was double barrelled, and was aimed at Dr. Skinner as well as myself. Looking at the Doctor, he emphatically charged me "never to preach long sermons until I had made up my mind that I was a great preacher." The congregation smiled, and Dr. Skinner tried to. I shall never forget what a hearty laugh we three had over that charge when we chanced to meet, some years afterwards at Brother Pescud's residence during the session of the S. B. Convention in Raleigh. Bro. Bradford, I believe, has gone to heaven. May Bro. Skinner have many years of usefulness before him before the Lord shall call him away.

The Lord grant Brother Nelson, who has watched with fatherly solicitude the Goldsboro Baptist Church through all her varying vicissitudes from her constitution to the present time, abundant grace and peace through our Lord Jesus Christ.



REV. JNO. T. ALBRITTON
Teacher of Class No. 5 in 1857
Ordained to Ministry in 1859
Wake Forest Student 1857



REV. CHARLES J. NELSON
1815-1899



First Baptist Church about 1895, showing parsonage, Sunday School room addition and church, 1900. 115 South John Street.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH W.M.U. HISTORY 1886 - 1984

The First Baptist Church of Goldsboro can be humbly proud and thankful that God worked through its members to play a large part in the organization of the Woman's Missionary Union.

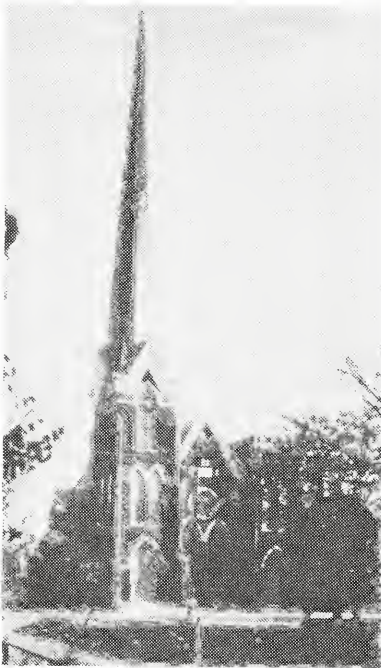
In 1886, Dr. Theodore Whitfield was pastor of our church. His wife Annie Eliza Morehead Whitfield encouraged her husband to preach many missionary sermons and to invite missionary speakers.

Dr. Whitfield represented North Carolina as vice-president of the Foreign Mission Board.

So in 1886 Annie Morehead Whitfield organized the women of the Goldsboro Church into a Woman's Missionary Society and became its first president.



Theodore Whitfield and Annie Morehead Whitfield at the time of their marriage, 1859.



St. Paul Methodist Church built in 1883.
Steeple toppled by Hurricane Hazel in 1954.

Similar missionary societies were being organized throughout the state.

After about a year the Whitfields moved to Richmond, Virginia where Dr. Whitfield became pastor of the Baptist church and Annie Whitfield presided over the committee which organized the Woman's Missionary union of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1888.

In 1891, the Baptist State Convention met in Goldsboro at the First Baptist Church. This was the first time that women were invited to a State Convention. They came in such large numbers, the church could not accomodate the. St. Paul Methodist Church, across the street, graciously invited the ladies to meet in their new church. That is where they met and organized the 1st Womens Missionary Union of North Carolina.

The second and fifth president of our W.M.U. was Mrs. H.L. Grant (Lizzie). (1887-88) (1894-96). She organized the first Sunbeam Band in the church.

Our church W.M.U. send \$500.00 for Church Building Loan Fund of the Home Mission Board in her memory.



The third president was Mrs. William Robinson 1888-1890. She was the grandmother of Emmett Robinson. Her son, Dr. M.E. Robinson gave a large memorial window in our church in her memory.

The fourth president was Mrs. Ellen Edwards 1891-1893. She was Rev. Hartwell Edward's mother.

The sixth and ninth president was Mrs. Robert E. Pipkin (1897-1898). During her presidency in 1908 (1906-1912) Mrs. W.M. Petway organized the first Royal Ambassadors in the state.

The seventh president was Mrs. Frank B. Edmundson. (1899)

The eighth president was Mrs. Sue Robinson Pettaway. (1900-1905)

The tenth president was Mrs. J.E. Peterson. (1913) (Kate Parker) During her term bazaars were held in a downtown store to sell hot chocolate and handmade items for Christmas. The money was to be used for missions. Mrs. Hattie Criser led the Sunbeams.

The eleventh president was Mrs. C.E. Wilkins. (1914) (Minnie Grant)

The twelveth and fourteenth president was Mrs. Paul Yelverton. (1915) (1923-24) (Annie Pipkins) Mrs. D.L. Cuthrell led the Y.W.A.'s.

The thirteenth president was Mrs. E.L. Edmundson. (1916-1922) (Lois Keaton)

The fifteenth president was Mrs. George A. Norwood. (1925-1928) (Louise Hart) She corresponded with the missionaries and would always have a letter from them to read at the meetings.

The sixteenth president was Mrs. John R. Crawford. (1929-1939) (Clyde Denmark)

She was a wonderful president and held an executive board meeting (well attended) every month at her house.

She inspired the women to do more for missions.

Fifty years of W.M.U. work in our church was observed with old-fashioned dresses.

The church parlor was given by her family as a memorial to her.

At this time in 1936 the Greenleaf Mission was started at the home of Mrs. Lucy Jones.

Mrs. I.L. Kelly, Miss Will (Lora) Suggs and Mrs. Harry Shumate got together and started services with Mrs. Forest Jones as president of the W.M.U. and Rev. Forrest Jones as pastor.

With the help of members of the First Baptist Church and the Baptist State Convention a church building was purchased on Frank Street in 1939. In 1963 they have a lovely new building and 180 members. The mission became Calvary Baptist Church on US 70 Bypass east.

The building site for Madison Avenue Church was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Crawford by their children with the mother church giving \$100.00 a month for 4 years.

The seventeenth president was Mrs. J. Andrew Smith. (1940) (Hazel Hunt)

Each December she would plan special services for presenting the Lottie Moon Christmas offerings. Using colored lights as the offering increased.

The eighteenth and twentieth president was Mrs. Alfred J. Smith. (Maybelle Shafer) (1941-1942) (1947-1948) She was the pastor's wife and encouraged the women to give \$1.00 each at circle meetings.

Group meetings were held every quarter in county churches with dinner on the grounds. Later the W.M.U. of the Neuse Association was organized, meeting once a year in the spring. 85 members of W.M.S. attended a dinner at the Seven Springs Hotel and gave reports from Ridgecrest.

The nineteenth president was Mrs. Fred Harrell. (1943-1946) (Laura Lou Young) She put a lot of pep into the meetings. She became President of the W.M.U. of the Neuse Association and organized many W.M.U. in the Association. The Laura Harrell Chapter was dedicated in her memory.



1945 W.M.U. meeting in Church. First row, left to right: Rachel Tudor, Mrs. James Wm. Tudor, Mrs. Washburn, Mrs. Loftin, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Harrell, Mrs. A.J. Smith, Mrs. Andrew Smith, Mrs. J.R. Crawford, Virginia Henderson.

The twenty-first president was Mrs. Charles Norwood. (1949-1950) She called the women to deeper dedication. The Mary Crawford Norwood Scholarship Fund was set up for deserving Baptist young people. Rev. Alfred J. Smith died during this time.

The twenty-second president was Mrs. George E. Ham. (Catherine Mathews) (Jan. 1951 - March 1952) Rev. Gilmer Cross became our next pastor.

The twenty-third president was Mrs. Henry Belk. (Lucille Bullock (March 1952 - October 1952)

The twenty-fourth and thirty-second president was Mrs. John Henderson. (Virginia Crawford) (October 1952-54) (October 17-73) Rev. and Mrs. Jack Hancox was sent to Orleans, France as missionaries. They were sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. John Henderson.

The twenty-fifth president was Mrs. L.L. Edgerton. (October 1954-56) (Ruth Boyce) During this time the A.J. Smith Memorial Building and picture was dedicated.

The twenty-sixth president was Mrs. Julian Gaskill. (1956-1958) (Faye Sutton) At this time Brookside Chapel was started and some of the women helped out. They assisted by playing the piano. One of these was Mrs. Marvin Herring.

The twenty-eighth president was Dr. Annie Dove Denmark. (1960-1962) "Aunt Dovie had her Wednesday morning prayer group.

The twenty-ninth president and thirty-fifth president was Mrs. John R. Crawford, Jr. (Annie Laurie Howell) (1962-1964) (1978-1981) The 75th Anniversary year of W.M.U. was observed.



1961 Officers and Guests Celebrate 75th Anniversary of W.M.U. Founder's Day.
Left to right: Annie L. Crawford, Laura Harrell, Kathryn Bullard, Willa Dean Freeman, Bernice Cross, Eunice Colclough, Lola Delbridge.

The thirtieth president and First W.M.U. Director also N.C. W.M.U. President (1971-76) Mrs. Gilmer Cross (Bernice Apple). Mrs. Cross was especially interested in Girls Auxiliaries.

The thirty-first president was Mrs. Charles Gaylor. (Mildred Ellis) (1967-1968) Volunteer worker at hospital and Hospital Coffee Shop Chairman. Encouraged others to help.

In loving memory of Rev. Gilmer Cross who pastored our church for 17 years, heavy duty kitchen equipment was dedicated by the church, and an oil portrait by his wife and daughter.

The thirty-third president and second W.M.U. Director (1973-1975) (1968-1975) Mrs. Carlyle Eure. (Adell Sherard) Dr. E. Leon Smith became pastor.

Third W.M.U. Director (1975-1981) Mrs. John Getsinger. (Sarah Ellis) Sarah stressed giving pennies for the hunger fund.

The thirty-fourth president of Baptist Women Mrs. Loren Pate. (Martha Taylor) (1975-1978)

The thirty-sixth president of Baptist Women (1981-1982) Mrs. Randall Adams. (Frances Stokes).

Fourth W.M.U. Director (1981-1982) Mrs. Glenn Chitty (Linda Fornes).

Fifth Director and thirty-seventh president of Baptist Women (October 1982 June 1983) Mrs. Scott Sutton (Allison Collins).

Sixth Director and thirty-eighth president of Baptist Women (1983-1984) Mrs. Banks Presson. (Amy Killian) The largest Christmas Lottie Moon Offering ever given \$6,521.00 in our W.M.U.

Through the years, Baptist Women have worked in Community Missions. Twenty-five of these years under Mrs. Loren (Will) Suggs.

During the "Great Depression" discarded vegetables and meat bones were collected from the grocery stores and taken to the church where Rev. A.J. Smith had a "Soup Kitchen". Then the women took the soup to the schools to be fed to hungry children.

Sunday night snacks were served at the church to the service men from Seymour Johnson Field during World War II.

Meals on Wheels under the leadership of Emily Powell; cakes for the Flynn Home, visitation at the rest homes and hospitals, Cherry Hospital children were given parties, hymn singing for the older patients and the United Church Ministries are some of the activities in which many women participated.

But through all our strivings we must not forget our main purpose – the Great Commission. As the beautiful missionary hymn expressed it so well.

"So send I you, to take to souls in bondage. The word of truth that sets the captive free; To break the bonds of sin to loose death's fetters, So send I you to bring the lost to me. As the Father hath sent me, So send I you."

Catherine Ham
President 1951

THE BIBLICAL RECORDER

Raleigh, N.C., Wednesday, November 13, 1912

EDITORIAL

The Convention City

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is to meet in Goldsboro, December 3-6, 1912, this being the eighty-first annual session and the fifth to meet in that city.

Goldsboro is a thriving city of 10,000 people and is admirably situated amid the broad and fertile plains bordering on the Neuse River. In this region melons and berries, fruits and vegetables, cotton and tobacco, are produced in abundance. Good roads radiate in every direction. Railroad facilities are excellent, three of our great railway systems—the Southern, the Atlantic Coast Line, and the Norfolk-Southern—entering the city.

Numerous industries here find a home; manufacturing plants, lumber, cotton-seed oil, furniture, foundry, printing, tobacco warehouses and the like. Several papers are published here, including the Argus (daily and semi-weekly), the Headlight, and the Record (weeklies.) The street car system was installed last year. The Kennon is the leading of several good hotels and boarding houses. The streets are paved as are the sidewalks throughout almost the entire city. There are many nice residences, good churches, and admirable public buildings,—in fact, all the paraphernalia of a growing city with a great future.

The visitor will find among the objects of interest in the city the Graded Schools where Drs. Joyner, Alderman, Moses, Claxton, Foust, and others got their start; the new Hospital recently completed; the Odd Fellows Orphanage, a glimpse of which we are giving elsewhere in this issue; Herman Park; the City

Hall; Willowdale Cemetery; and the State's Eastern Hospital for the Insane (colored), two miles west of the city.

With the people of Goldsboro hospitality is a cardinal virtue. When, therefore, the Convention messengers assemble there next month from all parts of the State, they will be given the keys of a goodly city and an open door into many a charming home.

The First Baptist Church of Goldsboro

A Historical Sketch

The story of the Baptists of Goldsboro is an interesting one. For the brief facts we are able to publish herewith we are indebted to the records of the church and to a short historical summary prepared some years ago by Capt. J.J. Robinson.

Organization in 1843

The church was organized in 1843 at old Waynesborough, one mile south of the present city of Goldsboro, which was then the county-seat of Wayne County.

It was constituted by a presbytery consisting of the Executive Board of what was then Union (later the Eastern) Association, namely, Brethren Benjamin Oliver, George R. French, and Laban Carroll.

Five members went into the organization: Chas. J. Nelson, on letter from New Bern; Thomas C. Garrason and wife, Lizzie, on letter from Petersburg, Va.; Mrs. Patsy Powell, on letter from Smithfield; and Cynthia Ellis.

The first place of worship was the free meeting-house, where services were held for eight years.

A Sunday school—the first in the county—had been organized in 1840 by Bro. C.J. Nelson and he continued as superintendent until 1862, not missing a single Sunday in these twenty-two years.

In the year 1850 services were abandoned at Waynesborough as most of the inhabitants had moved to Goldsboro, the new county seat. Here services were held in the Academy building for several years until the church secured a lot and built its first house of worship.

The Register of Pastors

During the early years preaching was rather irregular, the appointment being only for once-a-month services.

There were ten pastors of the church before the outbreak of the Civil War. The first was David Thomson of Smithfield. he was followed by Geo. W. Dupree, of Wake County; William Robinson; A.J. Battle; Harley Minor, who came from New York; J.J. James, whose salary was supplemented by the State Mission Board; Samuel Wait; David Coulling, who came from Petersburg, Va., and whose ministry was marked by a great revival resulting in hundreds of conversions and many additions to the churches, more than eighty being baptized by him; George Bradford, who served in 1858 and 1859; and G.W. Keesee, who after two years' service was stricken with typhoid fever and died in 1861, the only pastor who had died while serving this church.

During and since the Civil War the following is the register of pastors with the date of the beginning of their pastorates: N.B. Cobb in 1862; P.D. Gold in 1863; Theodore Whitfield in 1864; J.B. Hardwick in 1866; Geo. W. Sanderlin in 1868; Columbus Durham in 1871; F.H. Ivey in 1876; Theodore Whitfield in 1883; Thos. Dixon, Jr. in 1886; J.S. Dill in 1888; J. Hartwell Edwards in 1891; C.A. Jenkins in 1893; James Long in 1895; W.C. Newton in 1899; C.A. Jenkins in 1901; W.F. Fry in 1903; and Geo. T. Watkins, the present pastor, in 1908.

It will at once be recognized that in this list of twenty-five pastors appear the names of some of the foremost ministers of our denomination.

A Mother of Ministers and Churches

The following ministers have gone out to their work from the membership of this church: Needham B. Cobb, John T. Albritton, Charles J. Nelson, John T. Edmundson, Junius W. Millard, J. Hiram Grant, and Carter H. Jenkins.

At least three, and perhaps more, churches have been established by the membership of the First Church, namely: Second Church of Goldsboro, Bryan Street Church of Goldsboro, and Emmaus and Eureka Churches, both of which are several miles in the country. All are doing good work.

The Goldsboro Conventions

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has held four of its annual sessions in the city of Goldsboro. We make brief mention of the features of each session as given in the Historical Table of the Convention Annual and as sketched in "The History of the Baptist State Convention" by Rev. Livingston Johnson.

The Convention of 1860

Over the Convention of 1860, held October 31 to November 3, Elder James McDaniel presided. Elder W.T. Brooks was Recording Secretary; Elder B.F. Marable, Corresponding Secretary; Mr. S.S. Biddle, Treasurer; and Elder H. Petty, preacher of the introductory sermon.

Brethren N.B. Cobb, and W.R. Gwaltney attended for the first time. Dr. T.E. Skinner was received as agent for the Raleigh Female Seminary, and for this enterprise received \$2,200 in cash and subscriptions.

The recommendation to create separate Boards for the different objects of the Convention was referred to a committee which recommended the continuance of the present plan of having but one Board for all objects.

Colportage work was vigorously prosecuted the past year, there being ten colporters and the results of their work quite encouraging.

The Convention of 1867

Two Conventions were held this year; that on May 22-25 being held in Wilmington, when the time was changed to October, and the latter session was held in Goldsboro, October 16-19.

President James McDaniel, who had occupied the chair continuously since 1849, served here his last time in this capacity. Elders J.L. Carroll and G.W. Sanderlin were Recording Secretaries; Elder W.T. Walters was Corresponding Secretary; Elder James S. Purefoy was Treasurer; and Dr. J.L. Carroll was preacher of introductory sermon.

Dr. T.H. Pritchard was received as a visitor from Petersburg, Va., whither he had recently gone from Hertford, this State. Regret was expressed that Dr. T.E. Skinner had resigned the pastorate of the church in Raleigh and was going to another state.

At the request of the colored brethren a committee was appointed to aid them in organizing the Colored Baptist State Convention.

The Board of Missions reported that about \$2,000 had been collected and expended since the meeting of the Convention in May. Less than \$100 each had been contributed to Home and Foreign Missions, which was due to the fact that each Board had an agent in the State and contributions did not pass through the hands of the State Convention Treasurer.

Dr. Samuel Wait, one of the Convention founders, the first President of Wake Forest College, and the President of Oxford Female Seminary, had died since last Convention.

The Committee on Periodicals said that the Biblical Recorder should go into the homes of all our people. "It will carry news to them from all parts of the State and so cheaply—only \$3."

The Convention of 1880

The date of the meeting was November 17-20. Dr. N.B. Cobb served the second of his three terms as President. The Secretaries were brethren William Biggs and N.B. Broughton. Brother John E. Ray was serving the third term of his ten years as Corresponding Secretary. Brother B.F. Montague was Treasurer. Elder F.H. Jones preached the introductory sermon.

Dr. R.H. Graves, missionary in China, was present. The financial showing of Foreign Missions was the best thus far in the history of the Convention, the total amount raised during the year being \$4,696.46.

After much discussion a resolution was adopted requesting the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to appoint agencies for the collection of funds in this State only on the recommendation of the Mission Board of this Convention.

This being the semi-centennial year of the organization of the Convention, suitable exercises were held on Saturday night. When the Convention was organized in 1830 there were 15,000 Baptists in the State. In 1880 there were 100,000 white and 80,000 colored Baptists in North Carolina.

The Convention of 1891

The date of meeting was November 11-15. Dr. R.H. Marsh, of Oxford, was elected President for the first time—a position he held with great acceptability for fourteen years. The Secretaries were Brethren N.B. Broughton and N.B. Cobb. Dr. Columbus Durham was Corresponding Secretary, his term having begun in 1888. Brother J.D. Boushall was Treasurer. Dr. Thomas Hume was preacher of the introductory sermon.

A debt of \$1,800 was reported on State Missions, though during the past year a larger amount had been collected and paid out to missionaries than ever before. Dr. Hufham led the collection to meet the obligation, the amount in cash and pledges being \$1,074.55.

The bequests of Brother Arthur C. Melke to Ministerial Education and the orphanage, and \$16,000 to the Ministerial Relief Board were reported.

Rev. M.L. Kesler, who had been elected Sunday School Secretary the preceding June, resigned his position in order to go into the pastorate.

Dr. W.R. Gwaltney, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Ministerial Education, reported \$2,229.22 raised and no debt.

The Woman's Missionary Societies held their first annual meeting during the session of this Convention. The contributions the past year had increased 60 per cent and pastors were reported as taking more interest in woman's work.

Cordial welcome was given to Dr. J.M. Frost, representing the new Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. In his speech he said that three-fifths of all the Baptist churches in the South are without Sunday schools.

It will thus be seen that the Baptists of North Carolina have hitherto made some important history in their sessions held at Goldsboro. The fifth of their annual gatherings in that goodly city is to convene December 3-6, 1912. Let us hope and pray that it will be better than either of its illustrious predecessors and one of the best ever held in the history of the Convention.

HISTORY OF BYLAWS

The history of the Bylaws has been one change after another for the past thirty years. To insert the present 13 pages of Bylaws would be useless as it would be out of date before it was printed. Reference is made to the last printing in the Directory of 1979.

We did not have any Bylaws for the first fifty years. The first recorded Bylaws was in 1897. It was submitted by the State Convention and was adopted along with a suggested Church Covenant. Very little was ever said about it. In 1926 we found a one typed page Plan of Worship in the Minutes which satisfied most of the people and the pastor for the next twenty-five years. In 1951 a Bylaws Committee was appointed to recommend a new order and plan of worship, and duties of the different committees. Every year since then there has been deletions and additions.

It is recommended that one ask for the latest revised printing and compare it with the revised edition adopted in March, 1979. Bylaws are important and should be read by all members to know the thinking of the pastor and the Diaconate and know the direction they are leading the church. They make and change the Bylaws. One should study the Bylaws before accepting an invitation to serve, and should know that you are expected to attend the monthly meeting regularly and to conform with the Bylaws.

Covenant

Having been, as we trust, brought by Divine Grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and to give ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other **to walk together in Him in brotherly love** to His glory as our common Lord. We do therefore, in His strength engage that we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other, and faithfully warn, exhort and admonish each other as occasion may require; that we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but will uphold the public worship of

God and the ordinance of His house; that we will not omit closet and family religion at home, nor neglect the great duty of religiously training our children, and those under our care for the service of Christ and the enjoyment of Heaven—that is, we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, we will seek Divine aid, to enable us to deny ungodliness and every worldly lust and to walk circumspectly in the world, that we may win the souls of men; that we will cheerfully contribute of our property, according as God has prospered us, for the maintenance of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, for the support of the poor, and to spread the gospel over the earth; that we will in all conditions, even till death, strive to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness with his marvelous light.

"And may the God of Peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

This covenant was adopted by the church in 1897.

MEMORIAL STAND IN SOUTH VESTIBULE RECORDS OUR CHURCH MEMORIALS

You will find our Book of Memorials dating from 1904. It covers gifts of silver, land deeds, bulletin boards and furniture; also a list of memorial windows at the time the church was built in 1912, furnishings for the pulpit, table and chairs, flower stand, etc.

The beautiful stained glass windows all date back to 1912 when the church was built. Each one is adequately marked and need not be described here. All windows can be viewed in color photographs in a Special Album of Memorials in the library.

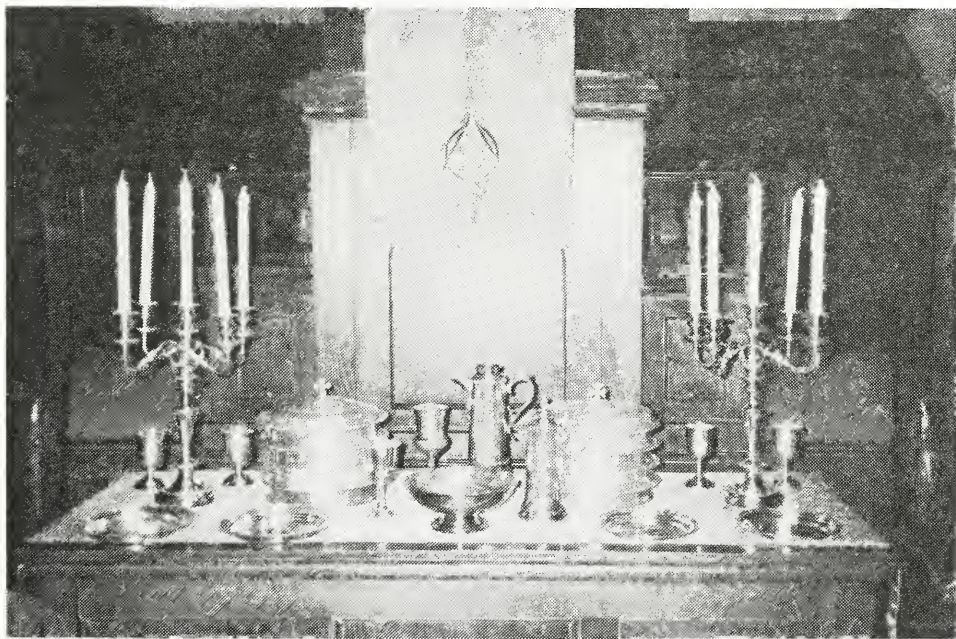


The 1912 communion table now at the entrance to the Fellowship Hall was a gift of the Grant family when the church was built. It matches the other pulpit furniture.

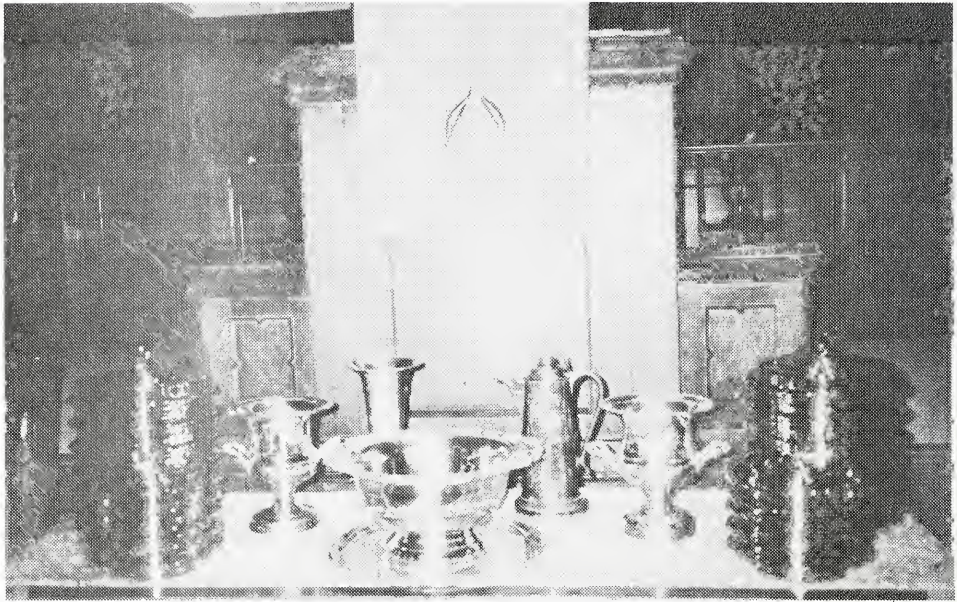


In 1922 a bulletin board in memory of W.V. Williams was a gift by his son, Fraser Williams, and is still in service.

A display of silver plates, goblets, vases and communion sets arranged especially for the Memorials Inventory may be studied in more detail in the library book.



- 1859 3-Piece Set, Cup-Bowl-Tankard, in front center, 1st Communion Service of First Church.
- 1891 2-Piece, Cup and Large Tankard, Second Baptist Church Set.
- 1904 Round Communion Set to left. Gift by Mrs. A.S. Turner.
- 1912 Round Communion Set to right. Gift by children of Mrs. Lizzie Grant.
- 1947 2 Candelabra, gift of children of George A. & Louise H. Norwood.



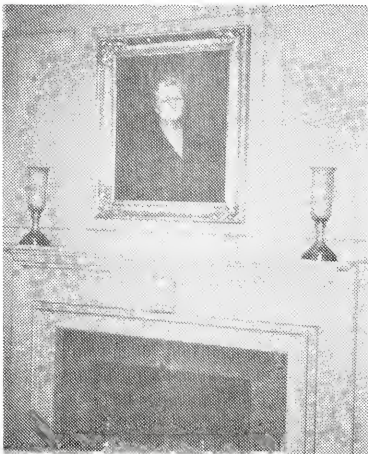
Tall Silver Vase at rear, gift in memory of Aunt Mollie Waters.

2 Silver Wine Coolers, gift of Sunday School class in memory of Clyde D. Crawford, Teacher.
Large punch bowl and tray, gift of 7 ladies: Mrs. Williams, Mixon, McKeel, Gibson, Malpass, Bain, and Crawford.

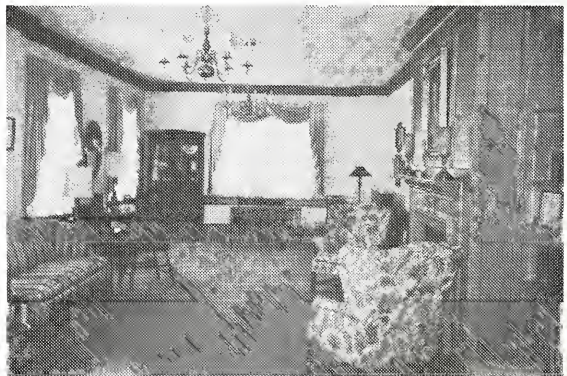
1975 2 New large communion sets purchased by Memorial Committee, Sam Hocutt, Ch.

1965 - At the time of redesigning the sanctuary and moving the choir loft, a new organ was purchased and chimes were added as a memorial to Mrs. Hattie Farrior Criser who left her entire estate to the church.

1955 - The Clyde Denmark Crawford Parlor was rebuilt from a classroom with funds left to the church by John R. Crawford. The parlor was furnished with furniture, pictures, books, and piano from Mrs. Crawford's home at 205 S. John St. A portrait was a gift of her children.

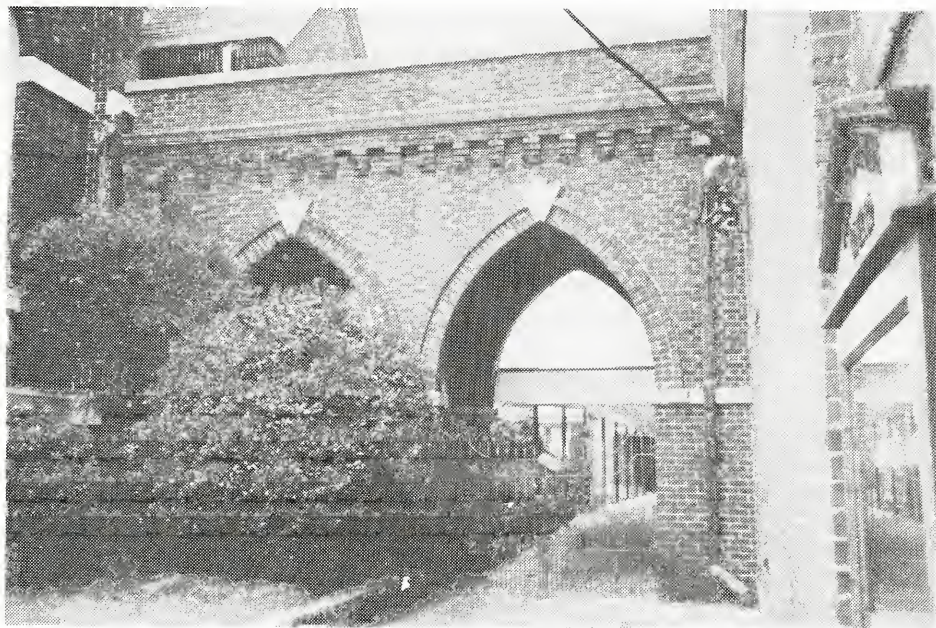


Clyde D. Crawford



View of Crawford Parlor

1956 - The Arcade connecting the church with the Education Building in memory of John R. Crawford was completed, also from John R. Crawford bequest.

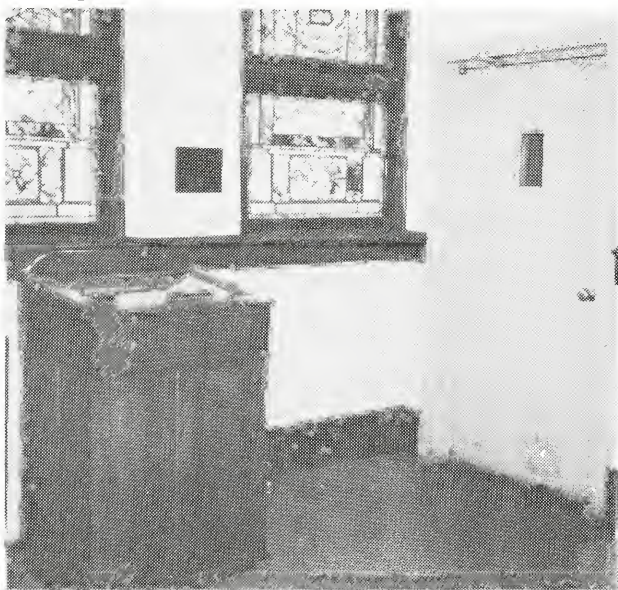


Arcade in memory of John R. Crawford.

1960 - John L. Henderson died while Chairman of the Board of Deacons. His family and friends provided for the installation of the elevator in the south vestibule as a tribute to his memory.



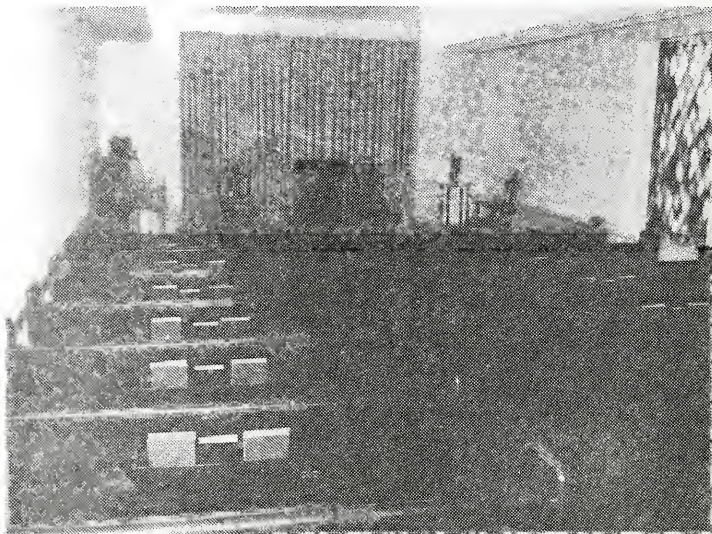
John L. Henderson



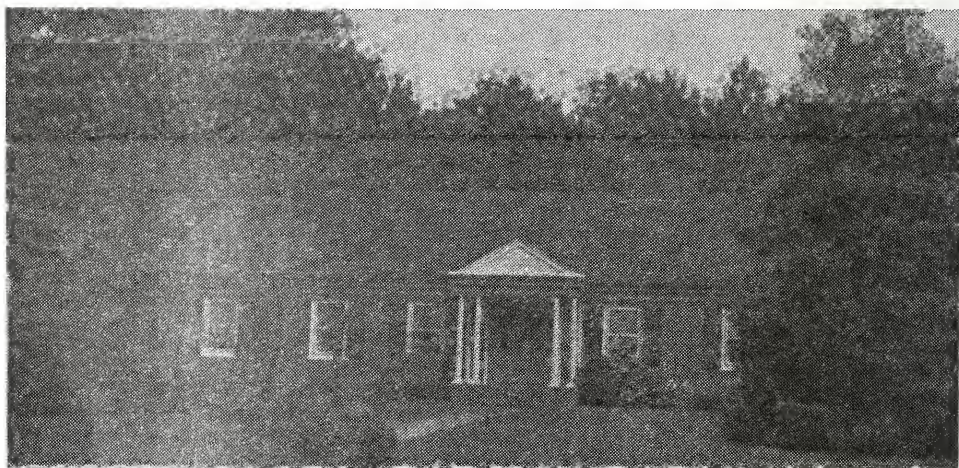
Memorial Book Stand

Elevator Door

1968 - Shocked by the death of Laura Harrell, Sam Hocutt led in converting the Men's Bible Class into a memorial chapel which was dedicated as the Laura Harrell Chapel in her memory. The original pulpit and three chairs from the first church (1858) were reconditioned and found a very acceptable and useful place in the chapel. A 1912 flower stand was added to the rostrum, a gift of Mayor John Higgins in memory of his parents. All of the above are prominently displayed in the chapel that is in constant use.

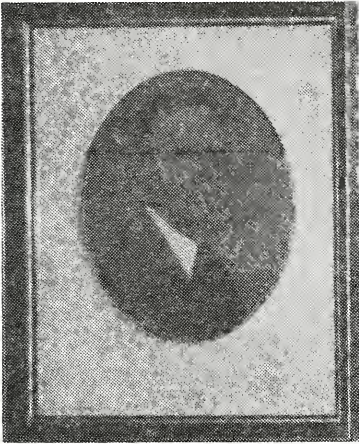


1963 - A lot at 1905 E. Walnut St. was given to the church by Mr. Raymond Bryan where a new parsonage was built for Rev. Gilmer Cross who moved in on completion in 1964. He resided there until his death in 1969. Dr. Leon Smith moved in early 1970. Raymond Bryan, the donor, died in September 1983.

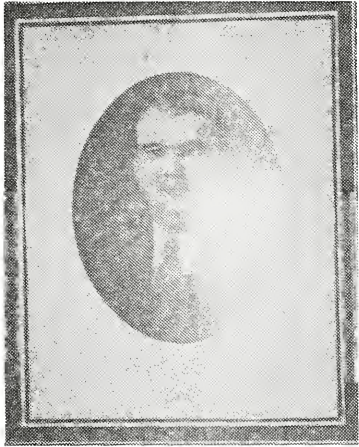


Parsonage for Gilmer Cross - Leon Smith
1963 - 1983
1905 E. Walnut Street

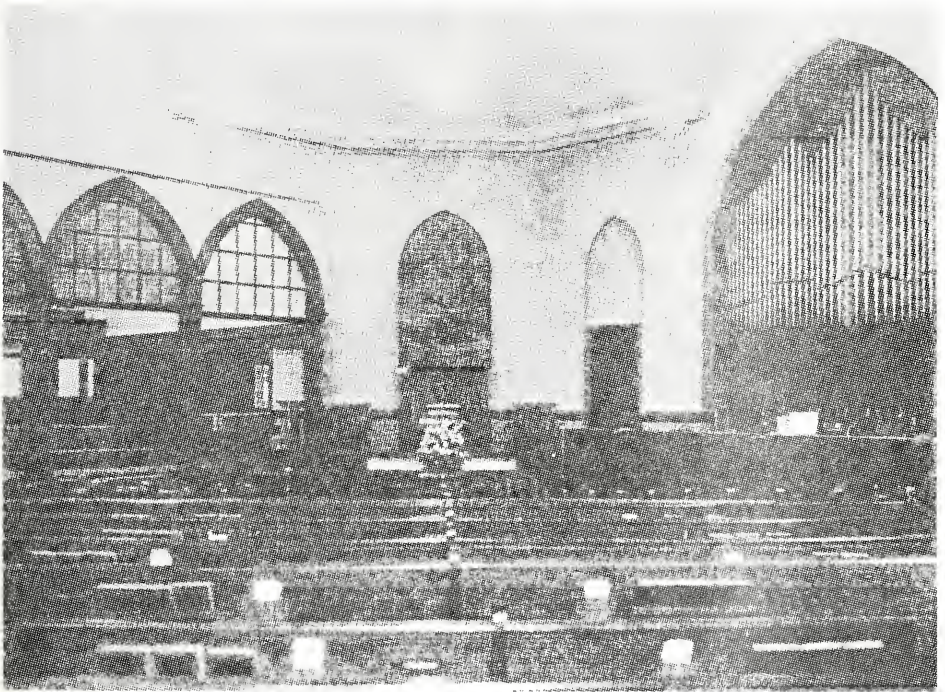
1964 - This was the year for a second and more complete remodeling of the Education Building to meet our needs. Our first priority was for a Conference Room. On completion the Conference Room was dedicated to our Chairman of Deacons, D.N. Alexander, and Finance Chairman, J. Ben Burroughs. These two men raised \$100,000 for the renovation work in one week. Due to the need for more room, in 1976 the Child Care Dept. took over the Conference Room in the Education Building.



D.N. Alexander

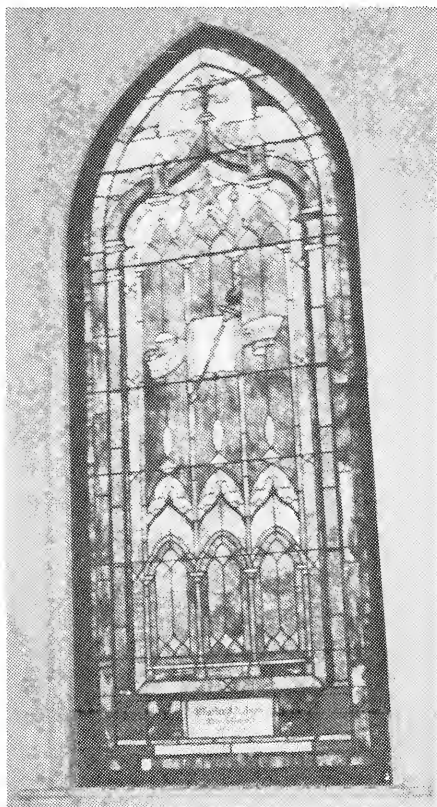


J. Ben Burroughs



Sanctuary Before The Renovation

In 1959 a memorial stained glass window in memory of Charles J. Nelson became a surplus window when changes were made in the sanctuary. The window was stored in the storage room under the church sanctuary until 1979 when a suitable space became available at the entrance to the new Fellowship Hall.



Charles J. Nelson Memorial



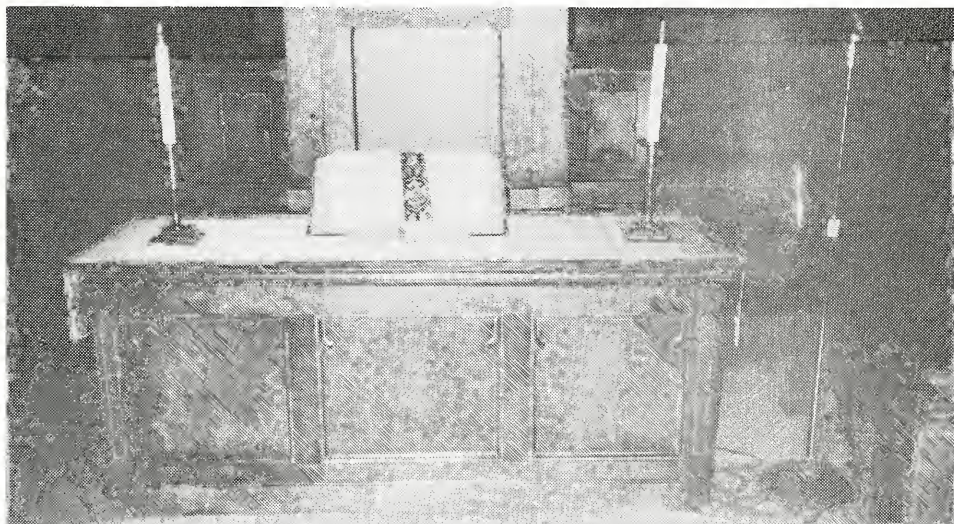
Jesus of Gethsemane

Many people have asked about the painting of Jesus on the north wall where the first choir loft was located. I have inserted on page 147 a picture of the interior of the church before the latest changes were made in 1959. You will see the painting from behind the pulpit. It hung directly over the baptismal pool. The painting dates back to 1912. Paul Olsen, the artist from New York, painted it in Goldsboro after he had finished his contract of decorating the ceiling and walls of the sanctuary. I feel sure he was paid extra for this lovely picture, but I do not find reference to it in the Minutes. He also painted a second large picture that hung in the Sunday School Dept. until 1959 when it became surplus.

1974 - The Mary Crawford Norwood Scholarship fund was established as a memorial to Mary C. Norwood by funds left to the church in her will and supplemented by her husband and friends. The fund was established for the benefit of First Baptist young people who need financial help in order to attend college. It is a grant, not a loan. The fund is governed by a committee elected by the church each year.

In 1943 a very large pulpit Bible was given to Rev. A.J. Smith while he was pastor by the Cary Newton Class. Mrs. Carroll Bryan was President and the entire class of 57 ladies' names is inscribed in the first two pages. This Bible is now in storage.

In 1956 a new pulpit Bible was given in memory of Henry C. Brown by his children, two of whom are still members of the church – Mrs. Dorene B. Musgrave and Shelton Brown. The open Bible now on the communion table below the pulpit is the Brown Memorial. The brass Bible stand is in memory of Charles P. Gaylor who died in 1971, a gift by Mrs. Mildred Gaylor. The table referred to above was given in memory of G. Frank Seymour by his family in 1975.



Brass Candlesticks gift of James L. and Ida Williams in Memory of Mary C. Norwood. Open Bible gift in Memory of H.C. Brown by his children. Communion table a gift in Memory of G. Frank Seymour by his family.

1974 - Two large brass candlesticks were given by James L. Williams and Ida Williams in memory of Mary C. Norwood, now used as shown on Seymour table.

The concert grand piano in the sanctuary was given in memory of Leona Banks by her sister, Mrs. Roma Herring and family, 1980.



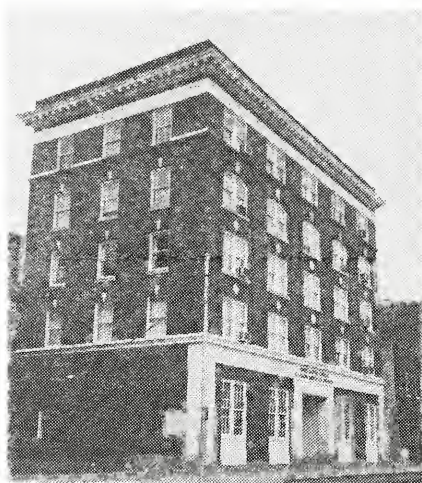
Grand piano given in memory of Leona Banks by her sister, Roma Herring & family, 1980.

Our Youth Fellowship Hall was dedicated to the memory of Pastor Gilmer Cross, 1951-1969. A bronze plaque is mounted on the south wall of the room.

January 16, 1955, the A.J. Smith Education Building was dedicated to the memory of our pastor, Alfred J. Smith. His portrait hangs in the foyer of the building.



In 1951, Frank Seymour, Trustee, announced a gift of Geo. W. Waters, Sr. of \$1,000 for painting the Sanctuary. John R. Crawford had given a deed to a lot on Chestnut Street at the rear and adjoining the Strosnider lot with the hope that it would be used for building a room for the kindergarten.



Picture of Education Building after last restoration, 1965.

First Baptist Kindergarten, Protestant Kindergarten

1946-1970 Day Care 1969-1982

In 1946, First Baptist sponsored an interdenominational kindergarten. Mrs. John Henderson was Chairman of the committee with Mrs. Sam Hocutt and Mrs. G. Frank Seymour. Mrs. Loren Pate was Director. Twenty-five children made up the first class.

After a successful year, five other churches joined in to form the Protestant Kindergarten of Goldsboro with headquarters moved to First Presbyterian Church where more room was available.

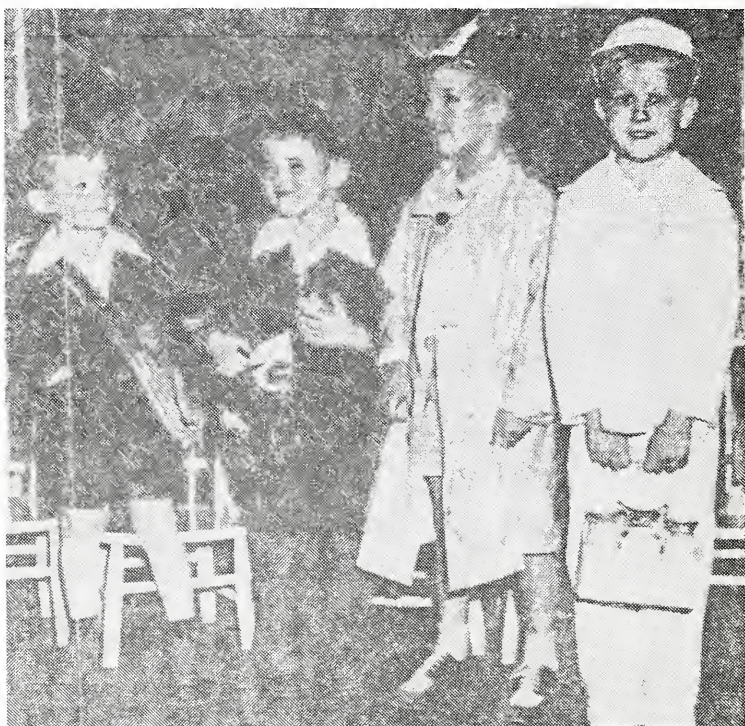
In 1969 Day Care Ministry was recommended. The Day Care Study Committee was appointed by the First Baptist Church in Conference, June 22, 1969 to study the feasibility of establishing a Day Care Center in the church. The Church's action in this respect was the result of concern by the members of Mrs. James Williams' Mission Action Group and W.M.U. Executive Council that First Baptist Church become actively involved in meaningful community service. Each committee member had done research in definite areas including a survey of working mothers in the community immediately surrounding the church, a study of expenses, a study of programs specifically geared to each age group, a study of state requirements for licensing, a study of First Baptist facilities in general.

The following proposals were submitted by the Day Care Study Committee for action by the First Baptist Church in Conference, February 4, 1970. (1) A self-supporting Center, meeting the state requirements for licensing, be established. (2) That the Day Care Program be directed by a Day Care Supervisory Council to be elected by the church from nominations submitted by the nominating committee and to be composed of nine [9] members including a representative from the Board of Deacons, and one from the Budget-Finance Board. Each member will serve three year terms with three new members beginning service each year. (3) That the Day Care Program be initiated at the beginning of the school year 1970-71. (4) That a minimum of thirty [30] applications be received by July 31, 1970, before the program can begin. (5) That the Day Care Program include children ages two through five. (6) That salaries for staff be set between \$1.35 per hour and \$1.65 per hour. (It is the feeling of the committee that salaries should be as close to the upper limit as possible while having the program support itself.) (7) That the church support the Day Care Program by investing \$561.00 in equipment: Fencing \$140.00, Cots \$216.00, Refrigerators \$50.00, Playground \$150.00. (8) That the use of the building and its maintenance be a further contribution by the church in support of the Day Care Ministry. The above proposal was submitted by Emily Powell, Chairman; Joyce Floyd; Betty Austin; Henson Barnes; Ray Bryan, Jr.; Jerry Medford.

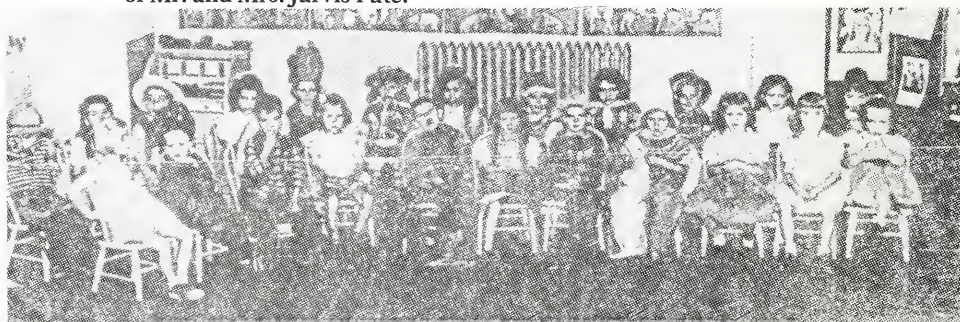
This proposal was approved and funds were made available for \$2,500.00 expenditures to prepare for fifty students the first year. Mrs. Helen Barbour assumed the position of Director. By 1980 Day Care Ministry had expanded to 90 children, a staff of 13, and an annual budget of \$90,000.00. They operated a van for pick-up service from schools. In 1983 the enrollment was limited to 100 children with the annual budget reaching \$120,000.00. Enlargement and im-

provement of facilities has increased each year with continuous satisfaction of service rendered.

Rhonda Gaylor, Emily Privott, Ken Fulghum, and Emily Powell, the Day Care Committee, have rendered constant supervision to the Day Care Ministry.



Dressed as a postman, policeman, fireman and milkman, these youngsters of the protestant kindergarten are shown as they participated in a program Thursday given for their parents at the First Baptist Church social room. Left to right are: Billy Sasser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sasser; Pat Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Griffin, Jr.; Jim Vinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Vinson, Jr., and Harold Pate, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Pate.



Children attending the first kindergarten class were: Jimmie Best, John Royal Heath, Bill Kiser, Frances Vinson, Carol Duncan, Harry Cohn, Henry Sherard, Mary Virginia Watts, Brenda Brown, Franklin Smith, Jerry Grant, Charles Pate, June Dulaney, Betty Jo Stephenson, Barbara Best, Edward Howell, Bennette Denmark, Sanda Franklin, Larry Chandler, Linda Price, Judith Pollock, Charles Leder, Philip Ray Littleton, Marylin Bernstein, Alice Henderson, Margaret Seymour, Cathryn Benson.



1946 - First organization of kindergarten to become Protestant.



Social room of Baptist Day Care 1983

Wayne County United Church Ministries

In the spring of 1982, six ministers met in our church office with Dr. Leon Smith to discuss United Lenten Services, after which they discussed problems



UCM SYMBOL—The logo of United Church Ministries of Wayne County is a basin and towel, symbolic of Jesus' servanthood when he washed the feet of the disciples. Carolyn Parker, a member of St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Goldsboro, Beverly Flora, emergency specialist for WAGES (Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency) who works at UCM in the mornings and Leon Smith, pastor of Goldsboro First Baptist Church, who led in the organizing of the community ministry. **Biblical Recorder**

that they were all experiencing, helping people, often the same people. Why not form a United Ministry, united to serve the whole county? All the churches would contribute one dollar for each active member.

A vacant store on Walnut Street was given for a central place to do business and after a renovation to make it more suitable, it was open for business. From the six original ministers, it grew to twelve. The idea was great. Support came from all over the county. Now there are 52 churches contributing plus several individuals and the AFB providing funds for an annual budget of more than \$60,000.00. At the end of the first year, 1500 families were helped; 61,000 meals were provided for; 2149 applications for assistance; 900 checks covering various needs were issued totaling \$33,521.00 including needs for rent, electric bills, fuel, water, travel and gas.

The United Church Ministry is a joint effort of Wayne County churches which provides immediate help to individuals or families in need. The ministry is staffed by a trained administrator and volunteer help from the churches and one full time staffer supplied by WAGES.

Each church has a representative on the Board of Directors that meets once a month at the First Baptist Church to hear and receive a written report of the past month's activities, and the result of the annual Walk-A-Thon that nets an average of \$25,000.00 each year. Mrs. Caroline Parker is Chairman; Father John Harper is Vice Chairman; Elaine Lamm, Secy.; and Parham Taylor is Treasurer.

Smith Wins Baptist Presidency

By Carol Branch
News-Argus Staff Writer

Greensboro — Dr. E. Leon Smith of Goldsboro captured the office of president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention here Tuesday by the largest margin ever recorded as moderates swept into the state convention's top three offices.

Fundamentalists were soundly turned back in their bid to take over the state organization.

Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Goldsboro, won 62.3 percent of the vote. His closest opponent, fundamentalist leader Ned Mathews of Gastonia, picked up only 36.3 percent. The final tabulation was of 3,375 votes for Smith to 1,967 for Mathews. Another candidate, Ted Stone of Durham, had 73 votes.

The 5,578 messengers made up the largest convention in North Carolina Baptist history. Both moderate and fundamentalist leaders regarded this meeting of the North Carolina Baptist masses as the most important in the convention's history.



Dr. E. Leon Smith

Moderates believe the Bible is inspired, but open to interpretation, while fundamentalists believe the Bible is inerrant — without error in all matters, including history and science.

"We're excited about the affirmation of the masses who have come to keep the North Carolina convention strong and in the mainstream of North Carolina Baptist life," Smith said after the election.

"The convention demonstrated that North Carolina Baptists are not a people of creeds or strong-armed ideologies," Smith said after the victory. "It demonstrated that we're a people depending on leadership from the grass-roots level, a people that respect the rights of everyone to interpret Holy Scripture according to conscience without fear of being categorized as unfaithful.

"Baptists want to stay in the mainstream of life," Smith added. "We don't want to get into some tributary."

For weeks Smith has been pushing for Baptists to remember their heritage of freedom and local autonomy of the church. He and other moderates feel the fundamentalist movement is pushing toward making the Baptist faith a more creedal denomination.

Smith says it is not Baptist for one group to try and impose its views on all Baptists.

The Origin of The North Carolina State Convention – The Biblical Recorder – Wake Forest College Greenville, N.C. – 1832

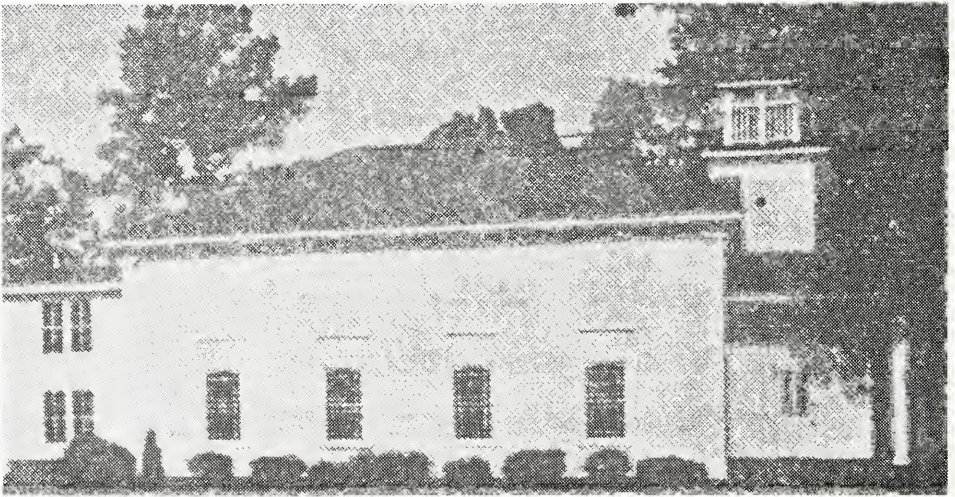
The relation of the men who led in the formation of the North Carolina State Convention becomes of increasing interest when you re-read the biographies of our first seven pastors. They all took a part in the organization at one time or another. Samuel Wait took the leading role and was the first General Secretary. He also got the Biblical Recorder started and then pushed on to be the founder and first President of Wake Forest. After twelve years as President, he was ready to pass the post to someone else so he could return to preaching. First Baptist was honored when he accepted our call in 1853-1856.

As early as 1825 Samuel Wait was preaching and talking organization in Eastern North Carolina. He settled at New Bern Baptist Church in 1827 from which he could fan out to smaller churches in the area as he continued his efforts to consolidate the Baptist Associations.



Samuel Wait

Rev. Martin Ross of Chowan Association was the first to suggest such an organization of churches into a Convention, but he died before Wait arrived. There were other organizations that had their following as well as independent



Bear Marsh Baptist Church Since 1760

traveling preachers, such as David Thomson who was very active in trying to unite the Baptist churches and Associations of the State before Wait. He was often a visitor, preaching in the Goshen Association that met at the Bear Marsh

Meeting House in Duplin County, just a few miles south of Mt. Olive. In 1830 he was sent to the Kehukee Association in Halifax County in an attempt to unify the churches in the northeast, but he was not successful. The Kehukee Association was perhaps the oldest in the State. It dates back to 1742. They were strictly fundamentalists. Their membership extended into Virginia.

They refused to commune with Eastern Carolina Baptists, who they called Separates or Liberal Baptists, who would accept anyone as members into the church, believers and unbelievers. They would baptize unbelievers and make them believers after baptism. Kehukee Association never did join the Convention but several other organizations did such as the Baptist Benevolent Society of the Tar River Association.

Charles J. Nelson, born in Craven County in 1815, was a member of the Baptist Church in New Bern while Samuel Wait was pastor and got his missionary spirit from Wait before he was lured to Waynesborough in 1838 by the coming of the railroad. He persuaded the leading merchants in Waynesborough to join him in building the first Meeting House in 1840 where all denominations might worship. Nelson organized the first Sunday School as soon as the hall was complete. He invited traveling preachers such as David Thomson to come preach to the Sunday School. By 1843 with the aid of Thomson from Smithfield, George Dupree of Wake County and Robert McNabb, the Sunday School became the Missionary Baptist Church of Waynesborough. David Thomson agreed to become the first pastor until Nelson could find his replacement. He was then 89 years old. He died September 1844, age 90, after serving as pastor for less than one year.

Please refer to our recent updated history of our church and read the first five pages and more to get the continued history from this date, 1843 to 1984.



Old First Baptist Church New Bern, N.C. 1812

